

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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SANGUINETTI, BETANCUR ADDRESS ALADI MEETING

PY021925 [Editorial Report] Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network at 1536 GMT on 2 March begins live coverage of a meeting attended by heads of state and representatives of the ALADI member countries at the ALADI headquarters in Montevideo.

An unidentified moderator is first heard introducing Raul Pinto Alvarez, the president of the committee of ALADI representatives. Pinto Alvarez delivers a 3-minute welcoming speech in which he officially opens the meeting and invites Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti to take the floor.

President Sanguinetti begins by highlighting the importance of the meeting, pointing out that "for us, integration is not only an international issue, it is a national policy objective." He explains that "we feel increasingly motivated to achieve integration in a world ruled by protectionist practices." He adds that the injustice prevailing in the world will affect everybody, because "just as Third World countries are now the victims," the great powers will also be affected "in the long run." He points out that "peaceful coexistence will not be possible in a world without stability and without justice."

The Uruguayan president then refers to the importance of ALADI, making a historical review of the organization and explaining that "we have learned a lesson from the frustrations" and mistakes of the past. He says that while ALADI must act amidst strong and well-structured organizations, some member countries at times "become involved in border conflicts" which call for the creation of "large military organizations" that serve only to destabilize the region.

Sanguinetti then says that in view of the problems that the region has to confront, "we have decided to propose a round of talks for 1985" to "strengthen the organization" and the "common will" of member countries. He points out that "we cannot continue to let extrahemispheric interests" divide us.

He closes his speech by saying that the ALADI meeting and the round of talks he has proposed are a "contribution" of the "smallest" South American Republic to this joint regional effort, an effort that should aim at realizing the dreams of unity of the Latin American liberators.

After the applause for President Sanguinetti, the moderator announces that Colombian President Belisario Betancur will deliver a speech on behalf of ALADI member countries. President Betancur begins by praising the restoration of democracy in Uruguay. He then points out that the "South Atlantic events" have revealed the total "vulnerability" of Latin America and "the weakness of its defensive mechanisms." He explains that these events have "awakened the Latin American conscience."

President Betancur then points out that only with "deep structural changes in our economies" will we be able to "maintain our position" in the world, and that the current "schemes" will have to be modified because "we know that integration and development cannot be achieved overnight." Betancur quotes a Roman emperor on the problems that affect a society in which some men are too rich and others too poor, pointing to the key issues to be resolved by a statesman.

After commenting on the text of the resolution proposed by Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, the Colombian president says that ALADI must echo "the initiatives of the 11 countries of the Cartagena Consensus" in order to "strengthen the region's repayment capacity" through "an accelerated growth of trade and transactions in local currencies." President Betancur ends his speech by expressing the hope that the region's dream of integration and development will come true.

After the speech by the Colombian president, the moderator, in a 7-minute presentation, reads the resolution approved by the ALADI representatives.

Live coverage ends at 1608 GMT.

ALADI Issues Declaration

PY032305 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1941 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Mar (EFE) -- The representatives of the 11 ALADI member countries today reiterated their support for regional integration and their willingness to undertake concerted action to counter the negative effects of the serious socioeconomic crisis that has hit Ibero-America. During a formal act attended by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez -- Spain is a permanent observer within ALADI -- the governments of the region endorsed the Montevideo Declaration, which reiterates their political will to promote regional cooperation and integration.

The declaration stresses that the nations of the region are aware that the answer to the adverse international situation to a considerable extent depends on our will to cooperate at the political level within the framework of our regional integration efforts. The document was signed after Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and his Colombian counterpart Belisario Betancur thoroughly discussed the economic situation, the protectionist practice adopted by developed countries, and the dream of Latin American integration.

The declaration states that the Latin American solidarity is an essential precondition for the preservation of regional interests and for the attainment of the region's joint development target. The 11 ALADI member countries maintain that this solidarity can be demonstrated in several practical ways: by making a joint effort to promote mutual regional trade, by using the region's bargaining power for the region's own benefit, and by making proper use of the Latin American market. The declaration also states that the nations sharing the same ideals must try to have Latin Americans operate their own market, rechanneling our purchases as much as possible. This concerted action will permit some relief from the heavy burden of our foreign debt, which has caused unemployment to rise, production levels to fall, the balance of payment to reach a critical level, and the living standards of our nations to decline, the declaration adds. With their political decision, the governments have promoted an integration policy.

The document also states that special mechanisms will be used to support this policy, such as bilateral and multilateral agreements for the purchase of goods and services by the governments on the regional market, without precluding the trade negotiations held under agreements that have already been reached within ALADI. Finally, the declaration states that 1985-86 will be the proper time for action.

EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES CAPITAL; 100 KILLED

PA041209 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Santiago, March 4 (AFP) -- The death toll in a major earthquake rose to 100 today as rescue workers searched through the rubble of hundreds of homes and buildings that collapsed in central Chile last night.

General Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean president, told the nation that 1,000 others were injured and that damage was considerable, in a dawn address over radio and television today.

The area hardest hit was the triangle formed by Santiago, San Antonio and Valparaiso where most the country's 12 million residents live.

Several hundred thousand people were forced to spend the night outside after fleeing from buildings in panic, and many of the large cities hit by the quake were without drinking water or electricity today.

Officials closed down several airports and said many bridges, tunnels, railroads, roadways and an electrical generating plant had been either destroyed or damaged in the quake.

But most of the damage had been to homes and apartment buildings, they said.

The capital, with its eight million residents, was struck the worst with 53 known dead and another 890 hospitalized with injuries, police said.

Thirty more people were reported dead, in the other major cities hit by the quake, including Valparaiso, Vina del Mar, San Antonio and Quilpue.

The first shock struck at 7:48 p.m. [2248 GMT], but was followed for more than three hours by 50 more tremors and echo shocks that were felt over a 1,600-km span (1,000 miles) from Copiapo in the north to Valdivia in the south. Waves were even felt in Argentina, over the Andes mountain chain.

Firemen fought blazes in blacked-out blocks, but electricity was progressively respoed in the capital during the night.

Santiago police reported a number of arrests of looters who had moved into residential districts where people had fled in panic from their homes.

Yesterday's tremor was considered one of the worst in 15 years in a country where earthquakes have killed some 62,000 people since the turn of the century.

The epicenter was located in the Pacific Ocean, 40 kms (25 miles) west of the resort town of Algarrobo, which lies 120 kms (75 miles) west of the capital.

In Santiago, the quake registered seven on the open-ended Richter scale which effectively measures up to nine, but hit eight degrees in San Antonio and Valparaiso, police said.

It was considered the culmination of geological movement under the Pacific Ocean and the South American Continent that has sent some 200 shock waves through the area since mid-February.

Pinochet Addresses Nation

PY041123 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0857 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 4 Mar (EFE) -- Chilean President Augusto Pinochet addressed the country today over a radio and television network to ask for calm and solidarity in the difficult aftermath of the earthquake that hit the country's central zone on 4 March.

General Pinochet suspended his visit to the southern region and returned from Punta Arenas to Santiago today in the early morning hours. He immediately called for an urgent cabinet meeting and then went to the national television studio and addressed the nation.

The president referred to the earthquake in the country's central zone that took the lives of more than 100 Chileans, injured more than 1,000, and damaged public and private property.

President Pinochet said that the government had analyzed the problems and all available information at an urgent cabinet meeting and had ordered Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia to coordinate a survey on the damage the earthquake had caused. The interior minister will adopt measures to solve as promptly and effectively as possible the difficult situation, using all the means the National Emergency Office has available. He will also coordinate all the assistance offered by the Chilean community.

General Pinochet asked the people to keep calm and to help, as they have always done, those countrymen who suffered the effects of the tragedy. He expressed thanks for the expressions of solidarity made by our brothers at this time of trial.

The seismic movement that affected the central region of Chile, especially the metropolitan area of Santiago, Valparaiso, Vina del Mar, and San Antonio, was initially felt at 1948, causing the death of nearly 100 people, injuries to more than 1,500, and damage that has yet to be evaluated.

Seismic Movements Reported

PY030205 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0109 GMT 3 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 2 Mar (EFE) -- Astronomer-seismologist Carlos Munoz Ferrada today said that the instruments of his laboratory have detected 324 earth tremors in the Chilean central region during the past 10 days.

Munoz Ferrada, who has his own research center in Villa Alemana, 60 km west of Santiago, said that of the total of 324 seismic movements, 52 recorded from 4 to 7 degrees, and 272 from 1 to 2 degrees, on the Mercalli scale (from 1 to 12).

The seismic wave, which originated at Plaza de Nazca across the Chilean central coast, 15 km off the coast and at a depth of 150 meters, was marked by microseismic movements and strong underground noises.

The scientist said that the seismic wave will move north in the next few hours along the southern Peruvian coast, thus putting an end to a telluric cycle that had started on 21 February.

SURPRISE EXPRESSED AT HONDURAN STANCE ON BUESO CASE

PY011828 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Report from La Moneda Palace by Hugo Reyes]

[Text] Foreign sources have said that it is remarkable that the Honduran foreign secretary should refer to an extradition request by a third government, that of the United States, in the case of Honduran General Jose Bueso, presumably involved in a plot against the president of his own country. The sources showed surprise that the Honduran foreign secretary is unaware that in Chile there is absolute independence among the state branches and that he does not know about the sovereign authority of Chilean justice.

The Honduran foreign secretary recently stated that if the extradition of Gen Jose Bueso is not granted, relations between the two countries might enter a critical stage.

UK'S HARDING SATISFIED WITH TALKS, DEPARTS

PY011506 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpts] During his stay in the country, UK under secretary for Latin American affairs, William Harding, held a series of meetings with Chilean political and union leaders. Regarding his silence, he noted that this is due to diplomatic and not political reasons. He added that all his talks with Chilean officials were of a confidential nature. Nevertheless, he said that he is very satisfied with his activities in Chile.

Harding added that he had been able to gather interesting and valuable information for his government.

[Begin Harding recording -- in Spanish] As you know I came here to learn about the real situation in Chile, to contact all national sectors to discuss Chile's future, particularly prospects for a prompt return of democracy.

I am completely satisfied with the exhaustive discussions I have carried out and very thankful for the warm welcome with which I was greeted by all my interlocutors.

I am now going to inform my government about the results of my visit. It is not my mission to issue an opinion about the Chilean domestic situation. [end recording]

William Harding left Chile last night at 2230 aboard a National Airline-Chile flight heading for Lima, Peru, which is the next stage of his tour through Latin America.

Before leaving, Harding declined to make a comparison between his visit and the one made last week by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Langhorne Motley.

Asked about his views on Chile's future based on the talks he held with Chilean authorities and representatives from different national sectors, Harding said that it would be improper for him to discuss details of the issues discussed in these talks since they were confidential.

Foreign Ministry on Visit

PY011950 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Report from La Moneda Palace by Hugo Reyes]

[Text] The British Government's under secretary for Latin American Affairs, William Harding, who ended his visit to this country last night, held meetings with Chilean officials and took an interest in receiving directly from them information and assessments of the political, economic, and social development of the country. This is said in a communique released by the Foreign Ministry.

The communique says that Ambassador William Harding, Foreign Office under secretary for Latin American affairs, paid an unofficial visit to Chile from 26 to 28 February as part of a tour of various Latin American countries. During his stay in Santiago he was received by the president of the Republic and had meetings with the interior minister, the deputy foreign minister, and the finance minister. During these meetings, Under Secretary Harding showed interest in receiving directly from our officials information about and assessments on the political, economic, and social development of the country.

He also had a working meeting at the Foreign Ministry during which a broad examination was made of the status of the bilateral relations with the United Kingdom and the future prospects of those relations. Points of view were especially exchanged regarding cooperation in Antarctic questions, the treatment of the human rights issue by international organizations, economic and financial questions, and the international foreign debt problem. The talks between the Chilean officials and Under Secretary Harding were held in an atmosphere of great cordiality, understanding, and respect, which have traditionally characterized the relations between the two countries. This is the communique released by the Foreign Ministry.

POLICE RAID HOUSES, MAKE ARRESTS IN PUNTA ARENAS

PY021750 Paris AFP in Spanish 0335 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Punta Arenas, Chile, 2 Mar (AFP) -- It was reported tonight by labor union sources that the Chilean police detained two political opponents and raided 11 houses in Punta Arenas the night before President Augusto Pinochet is due to arrive here.

It was also reported that civic leader Armando Gomez has been banished to the town of Puerto Cisnes, 200 km from here, because he was caught 10 days ago with 15,000 pamphlets urging the population to repudiate the president's presence in Punta Arenas.

General Pinochet will arrive in this city, located 2,500 km south of Santiago, on Saturday, 2 March, and will install his government here for 1 week in order to solve development problems in southern Chile. The pamphlets call for a repeat of the events in Punta Arenas 1 year ago, when the president was whistled at and booed during a civic ceremony held in the Plaza de Armas of Punta Arenas. Together with Gomez, the police arrested Juan Vidal who was sentenced to 2 weeks arrest at a Carabineros unit.

THOUSANDS OF PEASANTS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY EL BAGRE

Several Killed in Shootout

PA011440 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Medellin -- The critical situation in El Bagre municipality could spread to neighboring communities, Antioquia Department Governor Alberto Vasquez Restrepo said today. He said that the vehicles dispatched with personnel to repair the streets were seized by the peasants, who are using them to transport people to Zaragoza. Governor Vasquez Restrepo also stated that most of the roads leading to El Bagre are blocked and that talks will only be held when the situation is normal again.

Serious incidents that have left a number of dead and injured have taken place in El Bagre in the northeastern sector of Colombia during a strike that is in its fourth day. As previously reported, last Sunday approximately 7,000 peasants occupied El Bagre, a gold mining town, to demand a series of improvements to public services, schools, and roads.

According to Governor Vasquez Restrepo, the disorder erupted when the police repelled the peasant attack on the police station. During the shootout, which lasted approximately 45 minutes, six policemen were wounded, while several civilians were killed and others wounded. The dead still have not been identified.

Vasquez Restrepo said that after the shootout was over the peasants burned three planes at the airport. He said that by midnight the public forces apparently had the situation under control. In the past few hours approximately 2,000 peasants have left El Bagre for Zaragoza, which is 15 km away.

Governor Vasquez Restrepo promised early today to visit the zone where the incidents occurred and to try to intervene in the talks to find a solution to the conflict. Vasquez Restrepo said that talks will only be held if the road blocks to this town and other locations are lifted.

The El Bagre authorities admitted that the situation in the municipality worsened when the food supply became scarce. The organizers of the invasion continue to bring in more people, while the public security forces cannot handle the situation. The peasants continued to occupy the roads and the airport after failing to reach an agreement with Antioquia Department authorities. Antioquia political leaders and authorities said that the incidents have been politically motivated and that the leftist sectors are taking advantage of them.

Meanwhile, in Bogota and other parts of the country there is a milk shortage and the people continue demanding this product.

Tense Calm Prevails

PA021707 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Medellin -- The towns of El Bagre and Zaragoza are experiencing a period of tense calm in the wake of strict security measures enforced by departmental authorities. Antioquia Governor Alberto Vasquez Restrepo confirmed the militarization of northern Antioquia. He said that the official decision aims to ensure that area residents and invading peasants remain calm.

The governor held the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia dissident Ricardo Franco Front and the Army of National Liberation [ELN] responsible for the crisis in the area. Apparently, the ELN is the movement organizer.

Betancur on Peace Efforts

PA021709 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota -- President Belisario Betancur has said that he is confident that he will bring peace to Colombia and has asked demonstrators in El Bagre to return to their respective homes to prevent new clashes. The head of state reiterated the current administration's peace efforts and called for the solidarity of all Colombians to help it achieve its objectives. The president also warned that civilian and military authorities will not allow some disrupters to break the law in their efforts to hamper the peace process.

BETANCUR SPEAKS AT SWEARING IN OF MINISTERS

PA011406 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] President Belisario Betancur swore in the new members of his cabinet today. Gustavo Castro Guerrero was sworn in as the new economic development minister, Ivan Duque Escobar as mines and energy minister, Hernan Vallejo Mejia as agriculture minister, Rafael de Zubiria as health minister, and Rodolfo Segovia Salas as public works minister. During the ceremony President Betancur discussed the government's peace process and asked Colombians to cooperate so that together this fundamental goal can be attained for the best of the country.

[Begin Betancur recording] The circumstances under which the change of top government officials takes place should serve to confirm the coherence that exists in the government's policies and administrative plans and also prove how important it is for the country's development to get rid of the false idea that after 2 years in power the present administration has reached a state of progressive and contagious stagnation. Comments regarding a bureaucratic crisis have become increasingly disturbing. The fact is that a government continues to rule until the last minute it is in power -- at least that is how it should be. This has been observed in most respects by previous administrations whose duty is to inform the incoming government of the programs underway and those to be implemented. However, there are times when a low-level government official takes an action that might create a controversy. This does not mean that the administration has no control over its personnel. This government has never felt that it has lost its authority. I mention this because I want to remind you that every government needs to be dynamic, but it also needs the people's support.

As president, I will continue to support the peace efforts until the end. I do not mind if I am considered a stubborn peddler of illusions. The fact is that we are not promoting illusions and that is why I continue efforts on behalf of peace. I continue to hold high the white flag that I took with generous but firm hands on 7 August 1982. I am certain that you will support me in this task not because you think you owe it to me as a demonstration of loyalty to the president, but because Colombia needs hope even if there are skeptical and desperate Colombians. Our fellow citizens must realize that every minute of every day we do our best to solve their problems against odds that seem impossible to overcome.

When my term ends, I will leave quietly because I had the opportunity to do what Liberator Simon Bolivar said regarding the glory of being worthy and useful. I will continue to struggle for peace. No one should doubt this. It is my irrevocable and irreversible decision. I am sure that you will support me in this task as the former ministers have done. [end recording]

SANGUINETTI ASSUMES PRESIDENCY, SWEARS IN CABINET

PY012010 Paris AFP in Spanish 1932 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Mar (AFP) -- Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti this afternoon signed at Government House the document by which he officially assumes the presidency, appointed his cabinet, and signed his first resolutions as president of the country.

Sanguinetti then administered the oath of office to each member of his cabinet, which is made up of seven Colorado Party members (the ruling liberal party), two National Party members (center-left), and one member of the small Civic Union (Catholic). The new ministers are Ricardo Zebrino (economy and finance), Enrique Iglesias (foreign relations), Carlos Manini (interior), Juan Chiarino (defense), Roberto Vazquez (agriculture and fishing), Jorge Sanguinetti (transport and public works), Raul Ugarte (public health), Adela Reta (education and culture), Hugo Fernandez (labor and social security), and Carlos Piran (industry and energy).

Lifts Restrictions on Communists

PY012037 Paris AFP in Spanish 1957 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Mar (AFP) -- In one of his first decisions as president, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti this afternoon ordered the lifting of restrictions on the Communist Party and the restoration of the legal status of the National Convention Center (CNT), which had been dissolved in 1973. In a decree signed during a cabinet meeting shortly after his inauguration, Sanguinetti also ordered the restoration of the legal status of the Federation of University Students of Uruguay (FEUU), repealed an earlier resolution which had dissolved the human rights group Peace and Justice Service, and ordered the reopening of the Communist Party's newspaper EL POPULAR.

Gives Inaugural Address

PY011855 Montevideo Radio Monte Carlo Network in Spanish 1635 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Inaugural speech delivered by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti from the Pasos Perdidos Hall of the Montevideo Legislative Palace -- live]

[Text] The constitutional oath that the vice president and I have just promised to uphold is undoubtedly the highest and most honorable commitment that any citizen can assume for the Republic. There is no higher honor than the commitment we have just assumed, since for a republican there is no more honorable commitment than that of safeguarding and honoring the Constitution.

Nevertheless, we do not believe that we can fulfill this commitment by adopting a passive attitude. It is not enough to merely pledge our commitment to fulfill the national Constitution. We must make the fulfillment of the Constitution a national policy; we must actively enforce the fulfillment of the Constitution. All our efforts should aim to achieve this goal, and it is our commitment to dedicate all of our actions, all of our will, and all of our energy to achieve this supreme objective.

This Republic which was born to live in democracy, has lived 11 years under a de facto government. But this will never happen again, not only because the president will respect the Constitution, but also because all Uruguayans will respect it and because the basis of our will and energy is to make the Constitution a great national cause -- the great cause that has united us all since the very beginning of this nation. [applause]

We Uruguayans believe that democracy is not merely an institution, that it is not merely the harmonious grouping of juridical institutions, that it is not merely a political structure. Ortega [not further identified] used to say that "there are truths based on facts and truths based on theories." Truths based on theories are based on discussions, on reason. They are born, nourished and bred from discussions. But there are other truths based on facts. These are not discussed, they are assumed because these entail our own identity since you either exist or you do not, and this is beyond discussion.

We Uruguayans believe that democracy is a truth based on an irrevocable fact, a destiny that is either assumed or not assumed. But if it is not assumed, it is something unreal, and only by assuming this responsibility can anyone claim to be a citizen of the Republic of Uruguay; a Republic that before becoming a state, before establishing its borders, before having its national flag, was already a democracy, because that nation of activists who were in the military camps, those activists who followed the exodus [words indistinct] ethical impacts, those activists who were a democratic expression [as heard] and who said those things that we have (been raised on), those people already comprised a budding democracy, a spontaneous democracy, a democracy established before the birth of our forefathers.

Therefore, we Uruguayans believe that democracy is not merely a political system, it is the essence of the nation itself; it is our reason for being; it is our philosophy of life; it is the basis of our happiness; and we shall make every effort to defend it.

Five difficult years lie ahead of us. We are all aware that during these 5 hard years there will be agreements and disagreements, arguments and contradictions, and that there will be circumstances that always threaten the democracy whose weakness is its strength and whose strength is its weakness. Indeed, we will have hard years, no doubt, but the objective will always remain the same. And let this assembly, whenever it cannot understand the steps I or the government take, feel and know that those steps will be guided by a high objective and lofty purpose. We wish to do all we can in all areas of economic development and social justice, but above all we will always be loyal to the Constitution and democracy, which we will try to serve with fanatical devotion, because this fanatical devotion is the only dogma that democracy can tolerate since it is the dogma of democracy itself: the belief in democracy, in its own security.

Of course, we know that today we are retrieving the form of democracy, the legal structure which is the foundation of democracy. But we also know that ahead lies the challenge of giving it content. The form is important in democracy, because its guarantee lies in its form. And the form and the guarantees are, deep down, the substance of democracy. But we also know that the demands to give it content will begin to be made starting tomorrow, because democracy goes beyond the legal form with requirements for a social content. We must struggle for political freedom, for a more just society that will be the base and support of freedom. We will do all of this but we must do it together, because neither the government nor the president has the exclusive power to attain such objectives. We will have to do this together, the country as a whole, with the harmony of relations among the branches of the government. I am sure that in this Assembly we will find the spirit of understanding that is necessary to keep our disagreements from reaching the point where they threaten or weaken the institutions. Any disagreement must stop at the point where the strength of the institutions must be reinforced. These disagreements, of course, must be the expression of a pluralism that we must nurture, because unanimity is not democracy, and this assembly is the mirror of the diversity of opinions. Woe unto the country and woe unto democracy if such diversity did not exist. But this diversity and this pluralism must be exercised in a harmonious relationship of government branches that must work together for the defense of the institutions and the solution to the deep crisis in which we are immersed.

We all know that in America we are going through the deepest crisis of this century. The truth of this could have been argued until some time ago, but today we know that the 1929 crisis cannot be compared to the present crisis which runs even deeper. The particular crisis of our country is yet deeper. Uruguay is facing a dramatic economic situation; we cannot gloss over this point. We must know that during the past 3 years this country has lost 15 percent of its gross domestic product. In this country, the central administration is paying more for servicing debts than for paying salaries.

If our country were to pay today its overdue external obligations and the interest accrued until the end of 1985, we would have to pay 90 percent of our export income. The remaining 10 percent would not be enough to buy the oil we need to barely keep the country moving, and much less to buy the raw materials we need.

This situation reflects the material shortages and limitations we confront. During the past 3 years, our country has paid a high price for an adjustment that has had serious consequences. In the social sector, salaries had to be reduced by 35 or 38 percent according to some sources, by 50 percent according to others. Whatever the actual reduction, it has meant a substantial drain on national income.

Also, over the past 3 years unemployment has reduced by 45 percent the aggregate of paid salaries.

What a host of difficulties, gentlemen. What a host of dangers for democracy. What a number of material shortages. We will have to overcome them with our joint effort. Obviously, it is not possible to work miracles. We have to commit ourselves to making an effort, but we must be very well aware of all our shortages and limitations, so that we do not become overly optimistic. We must assume our commitment, but we must also be aware of the magnitude of this commitment. Our shortages and limitations are very serious. Thus, the entire country will have to make a great effort.

This country cannot face this situation with an economic recession. Only a fair growth can give us the possibility of advancing. There is no possibility of paying the foreign debt under a recessive readjustment or a situation that will keep the economy at stagnation levels. This can be easily concluded on the basis of the figures that I have just given. And these are just some of the many figures that I can mention to depict the seriousness of this crisis. These figures show that we will be able to repay our foreign debt only if we attain economic growth. Our economy must be reactivated.

This is a difficult task. All of us know that a key issue is to attain stability without falling into a recession and to reactivate the economy without fueling inflation. If there were no economic doctrine and if we had a formula to manage those situations it would be very easy to succeed.

But now we will have to reactivate our economy without letting inflation become an economic and social evil or a malignant seed that erodes the institutions, brings tensions, and spurs, beyond control, the eagerness to win more.

This is perhaps our most difficult challenge, because we may have to overcome our most serious shortages in order to succeed. To attain this task we will have to resort to our social discipline and our imagination. We will thus build an economic structure that will allow us to attain a more just development. To achieve this goal, our country will need not only the effort of its own children but also the understanding of the world.

During the century and a half of Uruguay's independent history, we have increased our exports and our search for new international markets. Now Uruguay must recover and start growing again with intensified efforts.

This country wishes to grow with the aid of the friendship, cooperation, and development of all the countries of the world without exclusions or restrictions of any sort. We wish and intend to seek cooperation wherever it may be found, unconditionally and in a spirit of solidarity.

Of course, we will first have to start in our continent, in our hemisphere, among our culture, in Latin America. In this Latin America that exports \$11 billion worth of foodstuffs, but which at the same time imports \$21 billion worth of foodstuffs. In this Latin America that exports \$48 billion worth of oil, but which imports \$26 billion worth of oil. These four figures just point out contradictions when we buy what we export, when we buy something abroad that is produced at home.

All this is being carried out within an unsuccessful trading system for which we are responsible for not having known how to organize with fairer conditions in order to be more independent. On many occasions foreign interests could be blamed for this, but own own weakness is responsible for it, too. [applause]

We cannot control foreign interests and threats, but we can control our own political will. And it is only because of our lack of political will that we are not able to organize the trade of our foodstuffs, which are available, in a fairer manner.

By favoring a Latin American policy we certainly do not mean to exclude the rest of the world. On the contrary, our countries, which are the children and inheritors of European cultures, have a strong feeling for them. We feel it in our roots, in our culture, in our way of life, and in our customs. We need European technology, science, but, above everything else, we need its understanding. We need the world to understand that a great deal has been done in the past in our countries and in Uruguay, and we wish to do much more in the future. Not with dreams of greatness, but with a will of justice.

We intend to give our people more, by struggling for more (?space). We will try to create better conditions for our American peoples, who have suffered so many misfortunes, so that they will be able to walk a more serene and enlightened way. We wish for all of this to be understood, and we point out our problems to all the international community so that they will think about it.

Today, all Uruguayans must thank the international community for its behavior and its attitude regarding this (?change).

Today, so that the feelings of the Uruguayan people are clearly understood, we also want to thank the international community for its conduct, and attitude (?these years), its permanent solidarity with us, and with the cause of Uruguayan democracy. [applause] We would like to convey to all our thanks and recognition. We express our recognition for that solidarity which was very important to us in difficult times, in times of trial.

We are now in a different moment. This is the time when we, together, in addition to expressing gratitude and recognition, are also going to make proposals, we are also going to make claims [words indistinct] of a reality so that if we are united by democratic ideals we can also be united by a will of cooperation to develop ourselves, to make efforts to build a more just world, which is the aspiration and ambition of all [words indistinct].

There is no doubt [words indistinct] this, without any doubt, is a hard and difficult task. We will have to work very hard, with great inner-will because democracy also has within its pluralism and diversity the weaknesses of human beings, human beings who have so much creativity and also so many weaknesses [passage indistinct]. This country has gone through 11 years of dictatorship, and two decades [words indistinct]. Therefore, it is now the time to seek not only to overcome the dictatorial situation which we are now doing but [passage indistinct].

After a little while [words indistinct] a draft law which we labeled national pacification which include the ratification of the San Jose, Costa Rica, Convention on Human Rights in which we recognize the internationality of human rights, and the international jurisdiction on this matter, in which we propose an amnesty which we believe should be not only generous but also necessary for the country [words indistinct] some changes in the criminal law, and in which we also propose the creation of a commission for the reunification and repatriation [5 minutes indistinct].

As president of the nation, in a few minutes I will also assume the position of supreme commander of the Armed Forces. This entails...[long applause] this entails, gentlemen, a solemn commitment that I assume with the full responsibility of such a position, but also with a happy heart, free of animosity and rancor toward anyone. I must tell this assembly that the Armed Forces will be under my command for the constant defense of the Constitution. We cannot ignore that the Armed Forces will have to undergo the difficult process of the transition from a de facto government, in which they exercised full power, to a democratic government in which they will be subordinated to the legal powers.

I want the Armed Forces to know that I will exercise their command with a serene spirit, without any spirit of revenge, with respect for an institution that, being an institution of the state, should have the dignity inherent to that condition. A dignity that is the soldiers' loftiest virtue, that is, to stand in defense of the national sovereignty and the Constitution. Without this virtue, the Armed Forces miss the sense of their mission. [applause]

I am certain that I can count on and that the Uruguayan democracy can count on the loyalty of the officers of the armed institutions and the police forces. We will have to insist on this point many times, but we all have to discuss it without prejudices, with an eye to the future, to discuss it with great civic honesty.

I can then tell the Armed Forces that in the exercise of the supreme command we will act with all the serenity and firmness for which a republican system calls, not with unnecessary actions, but with sufficient rigor so that the country can negotiate smoothly from a period of authoritarianism to a period in which we can all live again in tranquillity, because this is most essential for all of us.

We must dispel fear, and to dispel fear, we must do away with the violence that is its source. We must do this in defense of freedom. [applause]

To eradicate fear, violence must be eradicated first. And when we speak of violence, we are not only referring to bombs or submachine guns. We are referring to the thousands of forms of violence, to the violence that is sometimes tinged in ideological colors and that can resort to subversion, or that is simply the lack of respect for the opinion of others, the lack of respect of one citizen for the conduct of another. Because only with an attitude of respect can we uproot the seed of violence, can we build a society free of fear as was traditionally the case in Uruguayan society.

What has best characterized us? What was it that made us feel we were Uruguayans in those times when we who are present here forged our personalities? It was that sentiment that sometimes the new merging generation does not understand when we speak of a Uruguay that they have difficulty understanding. An Uruguay without fear, without authoritarianism. An Uruguay where anyone could enter anywhere without sensing the presence of a political adversary, or a personal enemy, or of someone who he felt he had to confront over a difference of ideas. That was the substantial profile of this country which came to life being tolerant, which had a heritage of tolerance that gave it its national identity.

This country is a melting pot of immigrants grafted on its Hispanic roots that was enriched with the blood of Italians. So this country grew with that double Latin identity and developed a brotherhood with other peoples who, although separated by borders, were not really different because we were all the same in that America that emerged to independence a century and a half ago.

Perhaps nobody can tell this better than we can, because we were at the crossroad of borders that were the apple of discord in the permanent struggle between the Portuguese and Spanish empires that forged the culture of South America.

We were a people with border problems and perhaps this is why we were also a tolerant people, and this is why the Spanish immigrants and the Italian immigrants who came later on [words indistinct] to welcome men and women from all over the world who are of our blood and our culture, people who came here to find either religious, or spiritual freedom, or tolerance, or just a place to live, and work such as the Swiss, (?Dutch), French, Armenians, Jews, who altogether created this national being which was not based on race or on a geographical point to establish itself.

A country [words indistinct] could not establish itself like that. For us national identity was a cultural value, the national identity was a political and cultural value. We Uruguayans were an expression of democracy in the River Plate Basin, and this is also our international position. We are Uruguayans because we believe in freedom, because we believe in equality, because we believe in tolerance, in civil and religious tolerance. We are Uruguayans because we believe that nobody is better than anybody else before the law. We are Uruguayans because we do not have aristocratic dreams. We are Uruguayans in the name of that identity.

[Words indistinct] that could have poisoned the spirit of our people [words indistinct] or grown the seeds of hate because we have always loved other people.

Our neighbors, of which we were a part, know that there is here a country with a century and a half of peaceful coexistence which identifies with them. We are now identified even more in the recovery of our national identities which must be developed beyond the boundaries of our respective territories in the only form of sovereignty that will make us great, by looking beyond narrow boundaries, not as enemies of one another, but as members of a collective sovereignty aimed at an economic integration that will allow us to do justice to our people and attain grandeur. [applause]

This is what Uruguay identifies itself with [passage indistinct]. The countries with the greatest geographic and economic potential perhaps may look at these issues as simple accidents in a long political history. The small countries like ours, when we have a crisis of this type jeopardizing such high values, are not facing simple political issues, or an accident on the road. We are facing a problem affecting the survival of the country itself, affecting its identity because our entire force is there.

This is why we say that we are Uruguayans under the conviction that we are also of the River Plate Basin because it is our culture, the same way we say that we are South Americans because it is our hemisphere, the same way we say that we are Americans because the dreams of freedom of our liberator continue in the spirit [words indistinct].

We claim our Western parenthood, not because we have adopted any automatic alignment with any world power, but because the spirit of the West represents the supreme idea of freedom that emerged at the dawn of our civilization, the Christian-Jewish-Hellenic tradition that has been the source of our inspiration, and that has inspired this liberal democracy. From that fountain flows our present way of life imbued with a spirit of spiritualism and individualism that sprouted in those remote seas, which is nothing but the spirit of democracy of the Mediterranean peoples that represent the Latin and Western spirit, the way we understand that parenthood. [applause]

We are all this, and because we are all this, we look to the future with confidence despite all the threats that loom over the horizon. Despite the great material limitations which we barely touched upon before, despite all the wounds that are still open but that we must patiently try to heal with a spirit of tolerance and understanding. I don't feel alone in this difficult task because I count on the solidarity of this assembly that just like me has been invested to fulfill a mandate by the popular vote. I also count on the solidarity of the people who have elected us with their votes.

I feel reassured by having been sworn into office with a vice president who not only shares identical purposes, but who represents a moral guarantee for the citizenry since he is the same voice that made itself heard in the 1980 plebiscite when most of us could not let our voices be heard. And he was one of the few voices that dared to speak up then. [applause]

I feel reassured because what I have pointed out provides the conditions for us to come out victorious in this difficult enterprise. It was not my personal ambition to reach this position today, but this is the crowning of a dream shared by all of us. My personal ambition begins today. Today I begin to have my greatest ambition: To transfer on 1 March 1990 the presidential sash to a new constitutional president elected by the people. [applause] Only on that day can we say, only on that day, that we have fulfilled the task, that I and all of us have fulfilled our mission. Our country is entering a new stage. Let us assume this commitment at this solemn, historic time.

Mr President, this country had been isolated as a nation and its people endured disagreements and oppression. Today, after overcoming the uncertainties stemming from isolation, we are moving toward a new stage of cooperation and solidarity with all peoples of the world who are represented here today by such a distinguished group of leaders and statesmen, who are thus honoring us today with their presence and whom Uruguay [words indistinct]. [applause]

We have already overcome all the uncertainties stemming from isolation. We are now entering a new stage of cooperation. We are entering a new stage of solidarity. Those disagreements we had in the past should stay in the past. In the future, only freedom and the exchange of opinions should prevail. Both isolation and disagreements should stay behind. We have the greatest asset: we have ourselves. [words indistinct]. [applause]

FERREIRA ALDUNATE PRAISES INAUGURAL ADDRESS

PY020150 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, one of the first to react to Sanguinetti's speech, said that it was a presidential speech for all Uruguayans. The leader of the National Party praised the speech by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. Asked about the speech delivered by Sanguinetti before the General Assembly Ferreira Aldunate said:

[Begin recording] [Ferreira Aldunate] It was a speech in which Sanguinetti said things on which all Uruguayans agree. It was a speech of a president of all. Referring to the specific paragraphs of his speech, I would like to point out those paragraphs of his speech, I would like to point out these paragraphs which the Assembly acclaimed with outbursts of ovations, the phrases in which the president committed himself before the country to fully exercise, without restrictions, without limitations of any kind, his constitutional condition as commander in chief of Armed Forces without allowing any interference from the de facto powers [poderes facticos] in the exercise of the tasks entrusted by the nation. I believe that this is encouraging, it is hopeful.

[Reporter] What commitment should the people now assume according to your opinion?

[Ferreira] To help, to help. This is a permanent commitment which is now reviving because this was suspended in the sad 12 years during which, I dare to say, there was a moral duty not to help, because by helping the bad government we were not helping the nation. But today we have an elected government, and you know very well the profound disagreements of my party with the method chosen to get the dictatorship out. But beyond disagreements, which are things in the past, beyond disagreements today the country has a government elected by the people, and the duty of everyone is to put their shoulders to defend the government, to defend the actions of the government. [end recording]

SHULTZ MAKES STATEMENT AFTER ORTEGA MEETING

PY021320 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1144 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Here is the statement made in English by Secretary of State George Shultz upon leaving the Hotel Victoria Plaza after his meeting with Daniel Ortega:

[Begin report of Shultz statement -- in English] I have just concluded a meeting with Commander Ortega [words indistinct] and I say again that the objectives of the United States and our friends in the region of Central America have consistently been advocated for several years, namely, first of all [words indistinct] Nicaragua reducing its military ability and forces to levels that are consistent with what is needed for defensive purposes in Central America.

(?Secondly), the removal from Nicaragua of the evidence of the introduction of the Soviet-Cuban presence and the introduction of the East-West conflict into Central America. Third, an end to the use of Nicaragua as a base from which to bring about undoubted efforts to subvert its neighbors. And fourth, to bring about in Nicaragua [word indistinct] democracy, as has been denied or as has been [word indistinct] on innumerable occasions, including in the original presentation of the Sandinists to the OAS.

These objectives are wholly consistent with the (?21) principles which were agreed upon by the Contadora Group. The release or the expected announced release of the political prisoner Urbina Lara [words indistinct]. We can hope that it will ease the resumption of the Contadora process. The Contadora process is the right forum for the discussions of the issues as the people in the region see them, and clearly there are problems as the people of the region see them [words indistinct] that there will be a meeting and these issues will be discussed and we hope that they will be properly resolved. Thank you. [end report]

That was the information given to the press by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz after his meeting with Commander Daniel Ortega here at Hotel Victoria Plaza. He limited himself to reporting and did not answer any questions put to him by the press.

We repeat the basic issues and main points discussed at this meeting during which the United States confirmed the proposals it has already made to Nicaragua, thus establishing the conditions for negotiations. They are: 1) the reduction of Nicaragua's military equipment and the military forces of that country, according to the needs of defense in the region; 2) the withdrawal of Soviet and Cuban advisers from Nicaragua so that Nicaragua will not serve as a base for subversive actions in the area.

The U.S. secretary of state also demanded again from Commander Daniel Ortega that the country should achieve progress in its democratic process and release the political prisoners. He specifically asked for the release of Costa Rican citizen Urbina Lara. He also said that the Contadora Group should be the ideal instrument for finding solutions to the Central American crisis.

This is the most important event since the very important meeting held here in Montevideo by George Shultz and Commander Daniel Ortega.

Holds Press Conference

PY021501 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1345 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Report by Inocencio Moreira on press conference held by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the Uruguayan-U.S. Alliance in Montevideo on 2 March]

[Text] The press conference held here at the Uruguayan-U.S. Alliance by Secretary of State George Shultz has just ended.

Among other things he said that President Sanguinetti had accepted President Reagan's invitation to pay an official visit to the United States in the second half of this year. Thus he confirmed that the Uruguayan president will be in the United States in the second half of the year to meet with President Reagan.

He also said that he held a meeting today with Uruguayan Economy and Finance Minister Zarbino and with Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias. During the meeting, they dealt with cooperation with our country. He also said that the Reagan government will give important help to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

The press conference dealt, above all, with the subject of the United States and Nicaragua. He said that the U.S. Government intends to achieve peace throughout the world. Right now Nicaragua does not offer sufficient guarantees for the security and support of western America. [as heard] Shultz also said that the United States has no intention of taking Nicaragua by force.

Shultz added that the objectives of the Contadora Group should basically be supported by all countries which live in democracy, because Contadora is essential in finding a peaceful solution.

He explained that the delay in having peace is due, above all, to the fact that Nicaragua is buying war material, both from the Soviet Union and from Cuba.

Regarding the Nicaraguan statement that 100 Cuban advisers would be sent home, Shultz said: Yes, they will send home 100 Cuban instructors, but when will all the Cubans who are in Nicaragua leave the country? If the Cubans continue to leave at this rate, the next century will come and the Cubans will still be in Nicaragua as instructors.

In reply to questions asked by the newsmen, he said that this morning President Daniel Ortega had told him during their meeting that the release of Urbina Lara, a Costa Rican exiled in Managua, would take place in the next few days. This is very important news because of the importance given in Managua to Urbina Lara.

Regarding the Contadora process, he added that Contadora is essential to bring about a change in the present Central American situation. It is the only way in which freedom and democracy can be achieved. He said that the release of Urbina Lara is a credit to the Contadora process, which will be resumed in the coming months.

ORTEGA MAKES STATEMENT AFTER SHULTZ MEETING

PY021240 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1210 GMT 2 Mar 85

[By Alvaro Alfonso]

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega has just left Government House. Ignoring protocol, Ortega placed a wreath at the foot of the monument honoring General Jose Garvasio Artigas and signed several autographs for people who were gathered at the site and who applauded him.

There has been no effort to (?block) the access of journalists to the visiting dignitaries who are making short statements as they leave Government House.

(?It has been said) that the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Commander Daniel Ortega took place thanks to the negotiations carried out by Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

The following is a statement made by Commander Daniel Ortega as he was leaving Government House. [recording indistinct]

Those were Commander Daniel Ortega's comments. As you were able to hear, he only referred to important [words indistinct] for Central American countries but he did not expand on the atmosphere during the meeting. We believe that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was far more explicit in this regard since he reported on the points that they discussed.

ORTEGA DISCUSSES SHULTZ MEETING, OTHER TOPICS

PY022030 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 2001 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Press conference held by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega at the Municipal Palace in Montevideo, Uruguay, by unidentified announcer and reporters -- live]

[Text] [Ortega] Well, first of all I would like to express my greetings to the Uruguayan people and thank them for all their expressions of appreciation. I also want to thank President Julio Maria Sanguinetti for his efforts to arrange the meeting that took place this morning with Secretary of State George Shultz, the U.S. Government representative. I will reiterate that the Uruguayan people, the Uruguayan democracy, and the Uruguayan president have already begun to make their contribution to peace in Central America. The Nicaraguan people express their gratitude for this contribution. I am ready to answer your questions.

[Question] [Words indistinct] we would like to know whether you could give us some details of the contents of the proposal (?that was discussed) at the negotiating table this morning with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, the Washington envoy. Summing up, that was the proposal put forth by Washington and what was the proposal put forward by Managua?

[Ortega] I want to say that, first, Nicaragua is interested in achieving peace, that is, it is interested in the normalization of its relations with the U.S. Government, because the relations between the U.S. people and the Nicaraguan people, they are magnificent, they are excellent.

We have made new efforts for obtaining peace, by promoting some new initiatives that are already known. We have told Mr Shultz that we have hopes that the U.S. Government will act with the proper maturity, with the proper respect for the Nicaraguan people, and instead of promoting a military solution to the problems of the region, let us advocate a peaceful solution to our problems.

We had been holding talks in Manzanillo, but given the U.S. position, these talks have been temporarily suspended.

However, we believe that currently conditions are favorable for the resumption of the talks.

I must say that this is the basic reasoning that Nicaragua has presented to the United States today during an interview held with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, Mr Motley, Mr Shlaudeman and Mr Johnson. We were accompanied by Father D'Escoto, our foreign minister. The talks lasted for about 50 minutes and we managed to tell them about Nicaragua's position.

Regarding the resumption of the Manzanillo talks, we found the Americans to be unyielding. However, we do not lose hopes that the U.S. Government will think it over and change its attitude.

[Question] [Words indistinct] therefore there is no democracy in Nicaragua, what can you say to this?

[Ortega] Well, regarding the weapons and military instructors, I can say that there are no Cuban troops. There are Nicaraguan troops. Therefore the Nicaraguan people have demonstrated that they have a fighting capability.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] They have shown their will to fight not only now by overthrowing the Somozist dictatorship, they have shown it whenever U.S. troops have invaded our country. Also the resistance fighting of the Nicaraguan people, who resisted U.S. occupation for 7 years, (?has been shown).

We have received fraternal cooperation, loyally and unconditionally, from President Fidel Castro's Cuban people and government. This cooperation has been given in many ways, in the fields of health, education, technical cooperation, and in economic projects. They have also given us some support in teaching certain military techniques which we have acquired from the revolutionary [word indistinct].

Regarding the introduction of armaments, according to the U.S. accusation, this has to do with the presence of military advisers, instructors, and teachers in the whole Central American region. Nicaragua's position has been very clear from the very beginning and we have (?demanded) the immediate and total withdrawal of military advisers, instructors, and teachers from the Central American region. All foreign advisers should leave the Central American region. We have also voted for an immediate freeze on the introduction of new arms into the Central American region. But the U.S. Government has turned a deaf ear to these proposals.

What Nicaragua is doing at the present time, after having accepted the Contadora Peace Document, is to make unilateral decisions regarding this [word indistinct]. In the first place we have made the unilateral decision to withdraw 100 Cuban military instructors in order to see if the other Central American governments dare to do the same with the military instructors or advisers in their respective countries, if they dare to proceed in the same way in the search for an agreement so that relations can become normal.

We have also decided on an indefinite moratorium on introducing new weapon systems into Nicaragua, including the jet-interceptor plane.

And we want to emphasize this because Nicaragua, unlike other Central American countries, has no jet interceptors. Despite the fact that we have already developed our anti-aircraft defense system, this system still lacks one part, so to speak, and this part is the jet interceptor. Now we have no jet interceptors simply because the pilots have not yet completed their training. However, we have decided to extend the ban even to the purchase of that kind of anti-aircraft defense means, so that we may later make a more definitive decision on this issue within the Contadora Group.

As for the reaction of Secretary of State Shultz toward the number...[Ortega hesitates] (?and the other motives) that at this rate, we would reach the year 2000 and the Cuban troops will not have yet completed their withdrawal from Nicaragua, the facts of the matter are that this is a reaction that is typical of those who are accustomed to acting in this manner, at least in Central America. Because Nicaragua was invaded during the last century [words indistinct] even a Yankee president, an adventurer named William Walker, later, (?also) at the beginning of the century, when there was neither a Soviet Union nor a Cuba that could serve as pretext for this type of action.

During this century [words indistinct] they intervened with their troops in 1902, and [word indistinct] until 1934, when they murdered Sandino and (?called) Somoza. (?They) are used to intervening, and occupying other nations with their troops and staying forever.

We should say that Nicaragua does not have the number of foreign military instructors, particularly Cubans, that the U.S. Government has reported. This is a big lie, and the U.S. intelligence agencies must be perfectly well aware of this, they have to be perfectly well aware of this. Because we have some hundreds of instructors, less than some 800, in this type of activity. If we add the number of Cuban military instructors to the number of Cuban personnel involved in medical, educational, and technical cooperation, we will see that the total does not reach even 1,500, not even 1,500.

Well, what they have done is this: They added one zero to 800 and thus claim that we have 8,000 Cuban military instructors, and they speak about Cuban troops. The truth is that by reacting in this fashion Secretary Shultz is maintaining his own pattern of behavior. He believes that everyone is like him.

Now the main thing is that the Nicaraguan Government's will is taking shape, that is, its desire to have all problems solved through peaceful means, the hope that we will finally reach an agreement with the U.S. Government.

[Question] A Uruguayan mother approached you here today to ask you about her son who has been in prison in Nicaragua. Following up on the question asked by my other colleague, can you tell me the Nicaraguan view of democracy, whether there are political prisoners in Nicaragua, and if this percentage is high?

[Ortega] Well, you must excuse me, but no Uruguayan mother has approached me to ask me about any political prisoner in Nicaragua.

[Question] Excuse me, but are there political prisoners in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Well, if you, if someone, or if Mr Shultz [words indistinct] it is right. (?The reporter) has talked about political prisoners. I believe he is right.

There are political prisoners in Nicaragua, because we are keeping in custody all those who were instruments of political repression in our country during the Somoza dictatorship. There are a few thousand Somozist guards in prison. If you consider them political prisoners, well, we will continue to have political prisoners in Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr President, [words indistinct] contacts with the U.S. Government by Nicaragua?

[Ortega] We have the disposition to make whatever contact might be necessary to make progress in strengthening the Contadora Group peace process and also in the search for normalizing our relations with the U.S. Government. We believe that dialogue with the United States is necessary, that it is an essential, complementary requirement to make progress in the Contadora Group peace efforts.

[Question] Mr President, the United States has promised (?to help) Nicaragua [passage indistinct].

[Ortega] We must note that Nicaragua has borders with Honduras and that between Nicaragua and El Salvador is the gulf, and that the gulf is occupied by U.S. battleships. Therefore, these statements about an alleged logistical dependence of the Salvadoran revolutionaries on the Nicaraguan Government is totally false. We must say that it is the U.S. Government itself which is supplying arms, ammunition, mortars, cannons, to the revolutionaries, because every weapon it hands over to the Salvadoran Government will end up in the hands of the Salvadoran revolutionaries.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] [Passage indistinct] The meeting of 14 February did not take place. Even in those days they had already started saying that the Contadora Group efforts had failed, that it had died. We said that it did not fail, because the Contadora Group has (?demonstrated) the feeling and the Latin American position in favor of peace.

Therefore we are sure that, considering the initiative we have taken recently, the Contadora Group will be reactivated and strengthened.

Regarding the mercenary forces that are organizing themselves in a so-called unity front, well, we did not speak about this issue with Mr Shultz. Although we do understand that they worked hard to build this front, to sell it to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. people, as a democratic front, to therefore seek in this manner political and financial support for their policy of terror in Central America.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] All of Latin America is (?currently) enduring an economic blockade [as heard] that obeys the interests of a financial system that is totally obsolete, but which is being defended doggedly.

Trade exchanges are increasingly harder and more unfair to the Latin American peoples. In the case of Nicaragua this blockade, which Latin America is suffering, and which also affects Nicaragua, becomes worse because there is a U.S. action aimed at cutting down any support from the governments of Latin America, of Europe, and other governments toward the Nicaraguan people. There is also a permanent U.S. pressure on multilateral organizations to stop loans and cooperation to Nicaragua.

There is a typical case in the IDB where for 2 years the U.S. Government was able to freeze an agricultural development loan, which would have benefited the people of Nicaragua, the private and public sector, all sectors of Nicaraguan society. This loan was blocked by the U.S. Government in the IDB by exerting all its pressure mechanisms and all its influential mechanisms. However, progress was made to get the loans, but the pressures have continued, therefore this has to economically affect the chances of the Nicaraguan people to better confront the very serious economic problems which are a result of the international economic attitude, [words indistinct], as a result of unjust relations in trade exchange which is worsened by this situation [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We conveyed, first of all, to President Sanguinetti the interest of Nicaragua to announce here, upon the establishment of democracy, to the Contadora Group the decision to hand over Urbina Lara to the Contadora Group. [Words indistinct] because really this was a completely artificial pretext as there are documents in the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, which were presented when this issue was debated in the OAS, in which the Costa Rican foreign minister accepts that Urbina Lara was captured on the street and not in the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua. The protest was made afterward alleging that Urbina Lara was removed deceitfully and tricked into the streets. It said that there was a trick involving a pretty girl who lured him to come out after her, and the police then tortured him on the street, and that this was a violation of the right to asylum. [Words indistinct] we did not really see any reason. The most serious thing was in the conditions imposed by the Contadora Group, but we considered that the proper thing was to resolve this problem now by doing away with the pretext so that the meetings of the Contadora Group can continue.

[Question indistinct]

[Announcer] There are many questions that reporters want to ask of Commander Daniel Ortega. Unfortunately, our audience cannot listen to them because the microphone is too far from...

[Ortega, interrupting] I told you how Nicaragua had to fight against the U.S. intervention on several occasions. In the past century we had to fight against U.S. expansionism. In 1912 we also had to fight against the U.S. occupation troops, and later, during the time of Sandino, there were 7 years of resistance.

This has given us some experience. Our defensive ability relies on the Nicaraguan people's massive preparation for combat. It does not rest on sophisticated weapons. (?We are not thinking of) [words indistinct] sophisticated weapons to repel a direct U.S. intervention. In the first place, it rests on the moral strength of the Nicaraguan people and on the possibility of giving each Nicaraguan a rifle and some ammunition. This is enough to resist and repel any intervention anywhere in the world, no matter how small the country. [applause]

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, I have to say that Honduras does not have an (?18,000)-man Army. It has (?as many men as the U.S. Army), that is, it has as many men as the U.S. Army has. [applause]

I would like to invite the Honduran Government to make an effort to have its people involved in its national defense. The formula is simple: The United States should provide rifles and the Honduran Government should in turn give those rifles to the Honduran people. Because if the Honduran people are given the rifles, I believe that Honduras may have as many soldiers as Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan revolution. But the facts of the matter are that the Honduran Government does not have confidence in its people, because I don't know what would happen if the Honduran Government gave arms to the peasants, to the workers, to the Honduran people.

[Question] Can the example of the Nicaraguan revolution serve in some way as an example for other Latin American countries enduring the rightist dictatorships?

[Ortega] We do not recommend our model. [Words indistinct] every social phenomenon in its character. It is necessary to know it and study it. But, in the end the answer has to do with the historic realities of each country and with the possibilities of its situation.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] I believe that one can arrive at socialism by various roads. The Popular Unity government was a government which made an effort to advance toward the establishment of socialism. Situations appeared, however, which thwarted those efforts by the Chilean people. I believe that in the first place it is up to the Chilean people and the various political forces in Chile [words indistinct] and draw their conclusions on this matter.

[Question] Your government has expressed through President Ortega Saavedra to the U.S. Government that the doors of your country are open to the governments to (?verify) that the war materiel [words indistinct] is totally defensive, not aggressive. What can you report to us on that matter, President Ortega?

[Ortega] This is correct. A couple of days before I left for Montevideo we let the U.S. [words indistinct] that we are sending an invitation to the U.S. Congress to name a delegation to visit Nicaragua and learn about the real situation. [words indistinct]

[Question] Mr President, the U.S. Congress is now considering giving more aid to the contras. One of the most critical issues being discussed here in the number of Cuban advisers in military posts. [Words indistinct] but once and for all, it would be very easy for the U.S. congressmen to verify whether you or the Reagan administration is lying. If you give figures, the U.S. intelligence service will have to verify them, and if they cannot do this, then you would be right. Why don't you once and for all give a specific figure of military personnel in the country.

[Ortega] We have said that [passage indistinct] mercenaries from the United States are Nicaraguans. We do have a number of Cuban instructors, no more than 800.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, here we are going to discuss first the elections. Someone here (?has a question).

[Question] [Words indistinct] the Mexican support at this time, in your opinion what kind of support do you expect from Mexico in the face of the U.S. pressure?

[Ortega] We view the Mexican support within the Latin American context. Throughout history, Mexico has maintained a strong Latin American position [Passage indistinct] peace in the Central American region. We attach great significance to this and we are certain that Mexico and Latin America at large will continue to strive for peace even if the U.S. Government is in disagreement with this Latin American effort.

[Question] How can you speak of democracy in Nicaragua when you have 5,000 political prisoners?

[Ortega] Well, a bloodthirsty regime, the Somoza dictatorship, was defeated in Nicaragua. Those who consider that the Somozist guards, who are in prison in our country, are political prisoners do not understand the Nicaraguan phenomenon.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Yes. We told the chairman of the Contadora Group here and President Betancur of our desire to hand Mr Urbina Lara over to the Contadora Group and we will do so.

[Question] Where, when, and how soon? [No answer heard]

[Question] Concerning the elections, the philosophy of the Act of Contadora [words indistinct] Mrs Kirkpatrick had the same idea but she is now out; Weinberger, President Reagan himself, and even Mr Shultz have insisted lately on the issue of ideological pluralism and on the lack of guarantees, which apparently or presumably plagued the Nicaraguan election. Now in this same region there have been evident problems which strangely have not elicited any concern by these U.S. officials: the fact for instance that Mr Ardito Barletta won a, quote, election, unquote, by a difference of 1,332 votes. Everyone rejected the outcome of this election, even sectors of the Panamanian Government, and described the election as fraudulent.

In Colombia people still vote on the streets, that is there is no secret vote; it is unknown. In Bogota people vote on 19th Avenue, the vote can be purchased, and you can see when people are voting. Mejias Victores has promised elections in Guatemala and it is not known [words indistinct]. The question is if Foreign Minister D'Escoto and the Nicaraguan Government, in the face of these irregularities prevailing in this region, in the face of electoral mechanisms typical of a region [words indistinct], has insisted on the fact that the Nicaraguan elections in comparison to the others are really elections, which permitted participation of the Nicaraguan people on 4 November 1983.

[Ortega] I believe so, the important thing is that there is a recognition for the government elected on 4 November and which was inaugurated on 10 January, a recognition from all governments of the world. The only government which refuses to recognize the Nicaraguan Government is the U.S. Government. All governments throughout the world recognize the Nicaraguan Government.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Logically we are interested in calling the attention not only of Latin America, but also of Europe because Europe is closely related to Latin America, to call their attention to the great problems. First of all, there is the problem of peace in the Central American region; with Craxi we talked about this, Latin American economic problems, especially in Central America, and the relations with EEC. Therefore, I had an opportunity to go into the details of these matters, and to give him Nicaragua's points of view on the issues of peace, the relations with the United States and [words indistinct] for the Italian Government to continue playing an active role in support of the Central American people.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] I would like to say that a very important democratic triumph has been achieved in Uruguay, and I believe that the most important and immediate task of all the Uruguayan political forces is to defend and strengthen this democratic victory.

[Question] Mr President [words indistinct] when a Nicaraguan port was mined, this issue was dealt with by the International Court of Justice in The Hague. On that occasion the United States talked about the politicalization of the International Court of Justice, associating it with the idea they have of UNESCO.

[Ortega] Well, it must be recalled that the United States is the country that has not frequently appealed to the International Court of Justice since 1946.

It was Nicaragua who had taken the case to the court. At that time, the United States had a case with Canada in it. Since the International Court has ruled in favor of Nicaragua, the United States has acted with great disrespect and in an arbitrary manner towards the court, as reflected by public opinion. Now the United States says that The Hague is no longer useful, and therefore it will no longer recognize it.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] [Word indistinct] No, they are not infiltrators, that is, there cannot be a social movement, there cannot be profound changes without this phenomenon of traitors. It should also be recalled that Christ also had a traitor, Judas was not an infiltrator, but he was weak and doubled-crossed him. This is what happened to Pastora with the Nicaraguan revolution.

[Question] Mr President, would you allow Foreign Minister D'Escoto to speak? Mr D'Escoto, how many times has the CIA tried to kill you and send you to heaven?

[D'Escoto] I am not sure that it was exactly to heaven that they wanted to send me.
[laughter, applause]

[Passage indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] No, unfortunately the U.S. Government still is supporting the mercenary forces, and they have reached the extreme of comparing them with Simon Bolivar. They label the Somozist guards as political prisoners, they are criminals.

They are criminals, just as were those people involved with the Nazi occupation forces who had to stand trial after World War II. But the United States sees political prisoners in the Somoza guards. It claims that it is waging a war against the Nicaraguan Government and not against the Nicaraguan people. But then what about the murdered children? More than 136 children under 12 have been murdered in Nicaragua. They were murdered. There is also a startling figure of more than 2,000 children and young people mutilated. During these 4 years of the war waged by the U.S. Administration against the Nicaraguan people, some 6,000 Nicaraguans between 12 and 21 have been murdered. Some 3,000 peasants, women, men, and old people have been murdered or abducted by the mercenaries. The war that the United States is waging against the Nicaraguan people is a criminal and terrorist war.

When we talk with the U.S. representatives, it is distressing to note that they maintain their determination to continue to support the mercenaries. This appears to be an immoral attitude. However, we hope that the United States will change its course of action and its attitude and that it will try to find a peaceful solution. This is what we want.

We have said this on countless occasions. We are not the enemies of the United States. It is the United States which has harmed Nicaragua. Instead of encouraging democracy in Nicaragua, what has the United States done? It has encouraged repressive, brutal, and bloodthirsty regimes like that of Somoza. This is what it has done. Had the United States encouraged democracy in Nicaragua, there would have been no revolution. There would have been no revolution because where there is democracy, there are no reasons for a revolution. Those Somozist guards were brought to court, and while some of them were released, others were given sentences. [applause] [passage indistinct]

[Announcer] Journalists, I ask for your attention. As Mr Ortega has a very busy agenda and several commitments he asks you to make this the last question.

[Question] What is the real status of freedom of the press in Nicaragua? Is there total freedom of the press, and if there is not, will it be possible to have total freedom of the press such as there is here now in Uruguay?

[Ortega] There is freedom of the press in Nicaragua. The press every day expresses its opinion against the Sandinist government; this happens every day. Now with the initiatives we have launched, the press has responded with an editorial attacking the government for the initiatives. The press can say anything. We have some restrictions on military and security information because we are confronting the aggression of a foreign power, the United States. We would like to see no restrictions at all in Nicaragua, but while there is aggression we have been forced to maintain the restrictions, but if the relations with the United States are normalized and peace is achieved, there will be no reason for press restrictions in Nicaragua. We do not want any type of restrictions in Nicaragua. I would also like to say that the Somozist guards are under arrest in Nicaragua because murder and torture was carried out there for over 40 years. Over 50,000 people died in the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship [words indistinct] the people who committed murder were not ghosts, or angels, they are criminals and because they are criminals they have been punished and sentenced.

COLOMBIA'S BETANCUR MEETS WITH ORTEGA, MONGE

PA021703 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo -- President Betancur arrived in this capital at 0600 local time. Immediately after his arrival at the Victoria Plaza Hotel he began separate meetings with his Nicaraguan and Costa Rican counterparts, Daniel Ortega and Luis Alberto Monge, respectively. Accompanied by the First Lady and a small delegation, the Colombian president is here to attend the presidential inauguration of Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Vice President Enrique Tarigo at the Legislative and Government Palaces with delegations from 72 nations and numerous international organizations.

Although not all the topics discussed at those meetings were revealed, it was reported that the leaders reviewed over the Latin American situation. After the meeting, Daniel Ortega reported that the main subject of the talks was peace.

He also said: We have discussed our governments' support for Uruguay's nascent democracy. Ortega said that Nicaragua's latest peace initiatives have been met with enthusiasm and confidence, which will contribute to the political solution of the region's problems.

For his part, President Luis Alberto Monge, in speaking about Costa Rica relations with Nicaragua, stated: We hope that the life and liberty of asylum seeker Urbina Lara will be respected so that we may rejoin Contadora. Concerning Nicaragua's peace proposals, Monge said: I believe that they are very positive and we salute them. He added: I believe that they are a very good contribution to the Contadora Group's peace-seeking efforts. With regard to his meeting with President Betancur, the Costa Rican president said that they had talked about Central America's problems and the possibility that Nicaragua may release Urbina Lara. If this happens, he said, naturally we will keep our word and rejoin Contadora.

At the Victoria Plaza Hotel President Betancur was also received by former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who participated briefly in the talks between Presidents Betancur and Ortega.

Urbina Lara To Be Released

PA020044 Paris AFP in Spanish 0008 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota, 1 Mar (AFP) -- The efforts of the Contadora Group, which stagnated as a result of the conflict between Nicaragua and Costa Rica over the right of asylum, will resume following the solution of the thorny conflict, Colombian President Belisario Betancur announced in Montevideo today.

Speaking over Colombian radio networks, Betancur disclosed that following his talks today with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in the Uruguayan capital, Urbina Lara, who was the center of the problem, will be turned over Wednesday in Managua to Contadora representatives and taken to Bogota aboard a Colombian Air Force plane. Once there, Urbina Lara can freely choose the country where he wishes to live, the Colombian head of state added.

Betancur and Ortega are in Montevideo to participate in the inauguration of Julio Sanguinetti, the new Uruguayan president.

SPANISH PREMIER ON MONTEVIDEO MEETINGS

PA021611 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0224 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Report by Luis Cabrera of the Voice of Nicaragua from Montevideo -- live telephone report]

[Text] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has just met with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of Nicaragua. Gonzalez made very important statements supporting the peace process proposed by Nicaragua. The interview with Gonzalez, follows for all our people to hear:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What are the results of your meeting with Commander Ortega Saavedra?

[Gonzalez] This is the umpteenth time I have met with Commander Daniel Ortega. As you know, I held two consecutive meetings, one with President Monge and the other with President Ortega. The topics we discussed included bilateral relations, the cooperation between Nicaragua and Spain which has been underway for some time and involves certain lines which need to be refinanced. In addition, we have suggested possible cooperation in the area of (?food). We also talked about political problems, which is probably what you want to know about. I am not saying that they are the most important, but I know you are very interested in knowing about them.

This morning I already mentioned what I thought about the talks with Shultz. I think we must pull out of the impasse that has been created. One can see that, on the one hand Contadora has reached a standstill, and on the other the bilateral talks in Manzanillo were suspended. I think that this is a situation that must come to an end. If a meeting is held between the U.S. secretary of state and the Nicaraguan president, this is a sign that a new path has been taken. I hope, because of the news I have, that the Contadora Group may also resume its activities immediately.

I also want to highlight something I think I already said: I believe that Nicaragua's latest decision has a political importance that must be taken into consideration. The decision for a moratorium on the acquisition of new weapons and the reduction of the presence of military advisers in Nicaragua are very important political decisions. [3-second break in transmission] I think all interlocutors should view this as a very positive sign of goodwill which paves the way for new dynamism for Contadora and the bilateral relations with the United States.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] mediation to achieve the meeting between Shultz and Ortega?

[Gonzalez] I don't know. I think that everyone agrees that it is good that these contacts have been resumed. All those who agree with this [words indistinct].

[Reporter] As for Monge?

[Gonzalez] The talks with Monge were very pleasant, a conversation between two old friends. We discussed our bilateral cooperation. We also discussed certain problems we have had in developing certain cooperation programs and I think these are being resolved. They are problems on both sides [words indistinct] of the machinery of the two sides. We also analyzed the overall regional problems.

The impression I got from President Monge is that Costa Rica wants the Contadora negotiation process to resume. It believes that it benefits Costa Rican national interests. Therefore, Costa Rica not only refrains from placing any obstacles before it, but with goodwill helps in the resumption of it. It is true that there was an incident, but I hope that this incident is on the way to being resolved at this time.

Consequently, once this obstacle is overcome, it is evident that the talks will resume. I said evident, but new deterrents may arise. But hopefully the Contadora negotiating process will resume. I think this is the most important news. I have already said a thousand times [words indistinct] I don't belong to the Contadora Group. Logically, those participating in it will make that decision.

I have been asked my opinion about Contadora many times. In addition to having made a peace proposal, Contadora has been a very important deterrent to the expansion of the conflict in Central America.

Therefore, when the international media report that Contadora is going through a difficult situation and some even say that it has failed, I think that they are wrong because they are not making a thorough analysis of its role. It can never be said that Contadora has failed historically. That cannot be said under any circumstances. It has helped to curb war and thus has made a substantial contribution to peace. I think that it will continue to contribute to peace. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, and I repeat that I am speaking as an outsider, I insist on issuing a call for the support of Contadora. To the media I say, to the extent that I am not involved in this matter, that perhaps I feel I have the moral authority to ask you to make an effort so that Contadora will be considered, on the international level, as a key element for peace in the region.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] with Secretary of State George Shultz. On Contadora, precisely?

[Gonzalez] Yes, evidently so. Contadora and the bilateral negotiations. Naturally, after all I have said, you understand my message with regard to the U.S. Government and its secretary of state. In addition, this is a message that I am merely repeating at a moment which seems difficult and dangerous to me. I feel that the doors to a dialogue [words indistinct] regional concept. When these doors are closed because of any circumstances, all those who, out of goodwill, want peace must make another effort.

[Reporter] Is there a date for the withdrawal of the first contingent of advisers?

[Gonzalez] No date has been announced. Of course, I am not the one to say whether there is a date or not. I think that the Nicaraguan Government must have its own calendar. But it is up to the Nicaraguan Government. It is the one that can and should announce the date and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Ortega explained today that he will meet with Shultz tomorrow morning. However, the concern in Nicaragua is that the threat of an intervention cannot yet be ruled out. We want to ask you, Mr Prime Minister, to give us your view about this difficult situation Nicaragua is facing.

[Gonzalez] My clearest opinion is that all countries of the world, regardless of who they are, must respect international law. This is the clearest point. After that, the rest is speculation. I head a government that wants peace and that, of course, respects international law. I advocate that all governments respect them. Therefore, I will never tire of repeating that any action that violates something as important as the UN Charter will be rejected by and condemned by our government. Nothing else should or could be said. This is enough.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister.

More on Meeting With Shultz

PY021224 Paris AFP in Spanish 1152 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Mar (AFP) -- The Spanish prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, has stated that he has found goodwill on the part of the United States to resume talks with Nicaragua with the objective of achieving peace in the troubled Central American region. Gonzalez, who is in Uruguay to attend the inauguration of President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, said that during the meeting he held yesterday with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, he reasserted Spain's position regarding problems affecting Central America in particular and Latin America in general in view of Spain's close ties with countries in the area.

Regarding the present problems that are obstructing the progress of the Contadora Group (made up of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela), Gonzalez said that he believes that these obstacles can be overcome and that this deserves the support of all countries, including the United States.

Gonzalez noted that during his meeting with Shultz, they talked about his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, Spain's interest in the Geneva talks being carried out between the United States and the USSR, and the forthcoming visit President Ronald Reagan will pay to Spain, which is being handled through diplomatic channels.

As for his visit to Uruguay, Gonzalez noted that this visit has a very special meaning for Spanish people, not only because the objective of the visit is to attend the assumption of power of a democratic government, but because it is the first time that a Spanish president has paid an official visit to Uruguay and because this will help strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Comments on Shultz-Ortega Meeting

LD021617 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0700 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Dispatch from Montevideo]

[Excerpts] Using the celebration in Uruguay of the return to institutionality as an excuse, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has assumed the role of mediator, which had been played by the Contadora Group, for the resumption of talks by which a peace agreement in Central America is sought. During the 50-minute ceremony at the Legislative Assembly where Sanguinetti took his oath as president, Felipe Gonzalez and Shultz discussed bilateral questions, including Reagan's future visit, the meeting with Gromyko, and the Central American problem. Afterward, in the evening, Felipe Gonzalez met with the Costa Rican president, Luis Alberto Monge, and the Nicaraguan president, Daniel Ortega.

The intense diplomatic activity carried out yesterday in Montevideo continues today with another meeting, which gives rise to expectations; specifically the meeting Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will be holding within 3 hours. The meeting, which is to take place at a central hotel, where the majority of the foreign delegations that attended Sanguinetti's investiture are staying, became definite after Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez had met separately with Ortega and Shultz. This meeting may unblock the U.S.-Nicaraguan dialogue simultaneously with the restart of the Contadora initiative, which is also at a standstill. Felipe Gonzalez said the following yesterday in the Uruguayan capital:

[Begin recording] I believe that it is absolutely essential to break out of the impasse which has been created, an impasse in which one could see that, on the one hand, Contadora has reached a standstill, and on the other that bilateral relations established in Manzanillo have been broken off. I think it is a situation that must be resolved. A meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Nicaraguan president can be a symbol of a new beginning and I hope for such a meeting because I know that Contadora also can restart its activities immediately. [end recording]

The effective unblocking of the Contadora process already appears to be a reality following the announcement that Nicaragua will release Jose Manuel Urbina Lara and hand him over to the Contadora Group members accredited in Managua. With this initiative Nicaragua should have [word indistinct] the path to a dialogue although the key that can open the peace process remains in the hands of the United States. However, as Prime Minister Gonzalez said, the importance of the Managua initiative is fundamental.

[Begin recording] I think that the recent decisions by Nicaragua have a political importance which should be appreciated. There is political importance, for example, in the decision on a moratorium on the purchase of new arms, and a political decision in the reduction of the presence of military advisers in Nicaragua. Consequently, these are two things done from a unilateral point of view, that is, in the exercise of the sovereignty of the Nicaraguan people, and therefore, the Nicaraguan Government, two things which I believe have been taken into account by all the interlocutors as a gesture of good will and a positive one which may lead to a new initiative in both Contadora and bilateral relations with the United States. [end recording]

Meets With Sanguinetti

LD030107 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 2 Mar 85

[All passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who is now in Montevideo, has had a 20-minute meeting with the president-elect of Uruguay, Sanguinetti, with whom he discussed bilateral relations, principally in the economic field, and the situation in Central America. Felipe Gonzalez also inquired about the situation of Spanish prisoners held in Uruguayan prisons. After the meeting, the Spanish prime minister held a press conference in which he spoke about the aforementioned subjects and subjects relating to Hispanic America in general, Spain and the EEC, and Spain and NATO. Here is a report from our special correspondent in Montevideo, Luis Garmat:

[Garmat] This morning Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez was received by President-elect of Uruguay Julio Maria Sanguinetti with whom he had a 20-minute meeting. During the meeting, which was brief because of the large number of persons the Uruguayan leader was due to receive, they discussed bilateral questions concerning future agreements of an economic nature. The possibility of the two leaders having discussed the situation of the Spanish political prisoners still being held in Uruguayan jails has not been ruled out.

After the meeting Felipe Gonzalez held a press conference at which he spoke about questions relating to Spanish domestic and foreign policy. On Central America the Spanish prime minister once again said that it was necessary to (?resume) the dialogue between the Reagan administration and the Managua government. In this respect U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz had a meeting with President of Nicaragua Daniel Ortega in which he reiterated the conditions which the Americans are laying down to [words indistinct] the Sandinist government. But let's hear some of the statements made by the Spanish Prime Minister -- Central America:

[Gonzalez] "The need to resume the dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua, on the one hand; a dialogue in which, on the other hand, the obstacles which have halted the Contadora process are overcome." [sentence as heard]

[Garmat] Spanish political prisoners in Uruguayan jails:

[Gonzalez] "As the prime minister of Spain it is natural that I should be concerned about this and it is also natural that I believe that with hope and discretion it is a problem which can be resolved."

[Garmat] In the opinion of Felipe Gonzalez, conflicts such as that of the Malvinas will not attenuate the position of the Spanish Government even if we were completely integrated into NATO.

[Gonzalez] In any event, Spain, in conflicts such as that of the Malvinas, over and above its relations with other countries in alliances, and over and above not accepting as it did not accept at that time -- I was not prime minister, but I thought the government was right not to accept any methods involving the use of force in resolving a conflict; over and above all this Spain supported the Argentine people. Some understood this and some did not, but those who did not are not my problem. We support the Argentine people. I'm going to say something at this news conference which might surprise you: The previous regime in Spain did not accept the blockage of Cuba, either. We had a regime which probably had characteristics relatively different from those of the Cuban regime; we had the regime of General Franco.

[Garmat] Clarification on the EEC-NATO issue:

[Conzalez] "For the countries of Europe it is better that Spain should also share the problems of security in a multilateral way together with the problems of an economic nature, an institutional nature, and so forth."

[Garmat] The negotiations with the EEC:

[Gonzalez] "I believe that Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi is thoroughly convinced, in my judgment, and this is for him to say, that Spain is maintaining a reasonable stance. I believe that as the current president of the EEC he will convey this conviction to other countries in the Community."

[Garmat] This afternoon the Spanish prime minister is due to meet Uruguayan political leaders Wilson Ferreira Aldunate of the Blanco Party, and General Liber Seregni, president of the Broad Front. The other delegations are continuing their bilateral contacts which are interspersed with press conferences such as those held by Bettino Craxi and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and the scheduled conference by Commander Ortega, of Nicaragua.

ITALY'S CRAXI VIEWS NEW GOVERNMENT; MEETS LEADERS

AU021341 Rome ANSA in English 0800 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Excerpt] (ANSA) -- Montevideo, March 2 -- "Democracy has finally returned to a civilized country", thus Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi commented here Friday on the inauguration of President Julio Sanguinetti after eleven years of dictatorship.

Craxi arrived in Montevideo Monday morning. Accompanied by Foreign Undersecretary Susanna Agnelli, and was welcomed by a large crowd of Italians and Uruguayans of Italian origin.

Speaking of the return of the first democratically elected president in the Latin American country after more than a decade, Craxi said "civilized countries must be governed only with democracy, otherwise they become barbarian.

"It is a celebration for all of Latin America and will lead to democracy also in other countries, sooner or later".

Shortly after his arrival, Craxi conferred with Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin, who next week will welcome Italian President Sandro Pertini on a official visit.

Today Craxi will try to use his good offices, also in his role as duty president of the European Community, to mediate between Nicaragua and Costa Rica in meetings with Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega and Costa Rica's Luis Alberto Monge, apparently at the behest of both U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, who visited Rome earlier this week.

GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT ON CONTADORA, OTHER TOPICS

PY021531 Paris AFP in Spanish 1306 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Mar (AFP) -- Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores has reiterated his country's support for the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela) and he rejected an eventual joint intervention if the troubling Central American situation deteriorates.

Mejia Victores, who is in Uruguay participating in the ceremonies of the inauguration of President Sanguinetti, stressed that his first thought is for peace in Central America and that he believes in a quick and peaceful solution and only in the very distant future in a war.

Regarding joint intervention if the regional situation deteriorates, rejected it because joint actions such as those provided for in the old Central American military pact no longer occur and that currently each country looks after its own affairs.

Regarding the call for elections in Guatemala, he reaffirmed that on 5 June, and as soon as the new Constitution is ready, there will be a call for general elections to be held on 27 October 1985 which will be the first in the past 30 years, and they will have all the necessary guarantees.

He expressed his pleasure regarding Uruguay's irreversible return to democracy, stating that as a member of the military and as the highest authority of a military government he believes that the Armed Forces, in exceptional situations, must not remain at the head of public offices for a long time, but only for the time needed to channel the country toward a democratic path.

HONDURAN MINISTER ON SANGUINETTI, CONTADORA

PA021637 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1442 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Interview with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica by Voice of Nicaragua Special Correspondent Luis Cabrera in Montevideo -- live telephone reports]

[Text] [Cabrera] Mr Foreign Secretary, this is the Voice of Nicaragua.

[Paz Barnica] Who?

[Cabrera] The Voice of Nicaragua. We would like to know your opinion concerning the most recent proposals made by the Nicaraguan Government?

[Paz Barnica] Yes. First, I would like to say that I am very pleased to be in Montevideo heading the Honduran delegation to the inauguration of President Julio Sanguinetti. This is a very significant event because it strengthens the democratic systems in Latin America and also represents an expression of the people's will in the face of the authoritarianism that has effected many countries of our hemisphere. I feel that democracies must be understood and must work together to successfully deal with the serious problems of underdevelopment and extremism from the left and right.

I believe that this is the opportune moment to discuss the Central American problems because with Sanguinetti's inauguration we have here a friendly meeting of leaders of the various countries. Regarding this, as you all know, the initiative of the Contadora Group are viewed as an expression of Latin America that enables the Central American peoples and governments to resolve, by themselves, their own problems with the valuable support and cooperation of friendly countries, countries that are closely linked with Central America, which are the four Contadora Group countries.

I feel that democratic governments such as President Sanguinetti's can help in strengthening the peace efforts of the Contadora Group.

As to the proposals made by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, I have not read them carefully, but I understand that they represent a positive step that must be taken further in order to reach an understanding with an overall and regional [word indistinct] within the framework of the Contadora Group efforts.

President Ortega asked me through (?his) secretary and later through Foreign Minister D'Escoto to meet here in Montevideo. I told him that I will gladly meet with him tonight after the reception or tomorrow morning at whatever time he finds convenient.

BOLIVIA'S SILES MEETS WITH NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA

PY021824 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The following is an official report issued by the government information under secretariat on the activities Bolivian President Siles Zuazo is carrying out in Montevideo. During an interview President Siles Zuazo held with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, they discussed the tense situation in Central America and the efforts of Latin American governments and organizations to achieve peace in the area.

In a statement to Uruguayan radio and television on Bolivian-Nicaraguan relations, President Siles Zuazo said that Bolivia upholds the principles of self-determination of nations and of noninterference in the domestic affairs of other nations. Daniel Ortega expressed Nicaraguan solidarity with Bolivian democracy and the Bolivian people.

In his talk with Uruguayan radio and television, Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo discussed important national issues such as relations between the Bolivian Labor Federation and the Democratic and Popular Unity government. Siles said that he is willing to establish a dialogue and if possible participate in a national forum with Bolivian labor organizations to arrive at an agreement regarding salaries.

During a press conference in Montevideo, President Siles Zuazo said he will reassert a proposal he made 2 years ago which calls for Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia to undertake joint actions in the struggle against drug trafficking. He charged that drug traffickers are the most important enemies of the Bolivian Government and of the democratic system. He reported that harsh operations against drug traffickers have been undertaken in the last few months in several Bolivian regions. He said that recent anti-drug trafficking operations in Beni have been positive, noting that success in this regard has been relative since drug trafficking rings have reappeared in the cities of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. He said that several anti-drug operations will be carried out throughout the country very soon and that joint armed and police forces and local peasants will participate in these operations. Siles said that the United States must cooperate in the struggle against drug trafficking since both U.S. and European youth are affected by drug usage.

ARGENTINA'S ALFONSIN TO OFFER 'GOOD OFFICES'

PY021303 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1245 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Mar (NA) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin today admitted the possibility that he may offer his good offices in the crisis between the United States and Nicaragua during his forthcoming visit to Washington when he will meet with President Ronald Reagan.

During an impromptu press conference he held this morning on the fifth floor of the Victoria Plaza Hotel, Alfonsin denied that he had acted as a "mediator" at the request of Nicaragua. However, he admitted that Argentina is willing to offer his good offices to achieve a rapprochement between the United States and Nicaragua, which at present is an important point of tension in the troubled Central American region.

Alfonsin explained that he did not participate in the meeting that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Nicaraguan Commander Daniel Ortega held this morning. Alfonsin added that the meeting took place as a result of the direct mediation of Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Alfonsin talked to journalists after a protocol meeting he held this morning at Government House with Uruguayan President Sanguinetti, who granted his first meeting of the day to Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

After commenting on President Sanguinetti's interest in achieving a dialogue between Shultz and Ortega, President Alfonsin said that Argentina "reasserts the interest of all countries to overcome the problems affecting Central America." He added: "As is well-known, Argentina supports the negotiations undertaken by the Contadora Group, and we have observed with satisfaction how through Nicaragua's decision the problem of the case of the refugee at the Costa Rican Embassy has been overcome. This will surely lead to the resumption of talks of the Contadora Group." Asked what will be his attitude if Commander Ortega requests him to mediate with the United States, Alfonsin noted that he does not believe this will happen. He added: "At any rate, Argentina is certainly willing to make every possible effort that will lead to a solution of the problems in Central America." Alfonsin noted that in view of the new situation in Latin America, it is possible that the arms race in the southern cone will come to a halt. He added that "I believe that in general we have to strive to achieve disarmament so as to avoid a nuclear holocaust in our region." Alfonsin reasserted his well-known position that Argentina is willing to sign any kind of safeguard measure "but only so long as it does not refer to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, since we believe this to be a discriminatory treaty."

Upon his departure from Government House, Alfonsin discussed the results of his 15-minute meeting with President Sanguinetti. Alfonsin said that during this meeting they "naturally" discussed the Central American issue, but their talks mainly centered on Argentine-Uruguayan relations. After this meeting with Sanguinetti, Alfonsin returned to his hotel where he met with journalists in an impromptu press conference. Later he met with Gabriel Valdes, a Chilean politician and secretary general of the International Christian Democratic Union. The meeting took place on the fifth floor of the Victoria Plaza Hotel.

At 0930, Alfonsin met with Commander Daniel Ortega and a few minutes later with Bolivian President Siles Zuazo.

At 1100, Alfonsin met with Antonio Garregues and Ors Shoeti, the president and general secretary of the liberal international group, respectively, with whom he discussed international political and economic issues.

Ortega on Argentina's Role

PY021650 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1555 GMT 2 Mar 85

[By special correspondent]

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 2 Mar (NA) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said here today that Argentina "plays a very important role" in the effort "to achieve peace in Central America" and "to bring closer the positions" upheld by Nicaragua and the United States. Thus Ortega fully confirmed that Argentina will carry out a good offices mission between the United States and Nicaragua during Argentine President Raul Alfonsin's visit to Washington.

This morning Ortega and Alfonsin held a meeting that lasted a little over 30 minutes and the optimism observed among the members of both delegations after the talks was obvious. Also present at the talks between Alfonsin and Ortega were Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Adolfo Gass, the leader of the Argentine Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Amidst the disorder that prevailed among journalists because of the expectations resulting from this meeting, Ortega noted that "Latin America is concerned over the present situation in Central America." He added that "Argentina is a country playing a very important role to achieve peace in Central America." He noted that during his meeting with Alfonsin they discussed "current problems affecting us, problems which must be resolved in a peaceful manner." Ortega said: "We know that this is a very complex situation and that we are obliged to make maximum efforts to find a peaceful solution to these problems."

Asked whether Alfonsin had been specifically requested to mediate with the United States, Ortega said that "we believe that all Latin American countries are mediating in this issue." He added that "Argentina is obviously playing a very important role in all efforts being made to achieve peace and to achieve a rapprochement between the United States and Nicaragua in order to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem."

Minutes before his meeting with Ortega, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin admitted that Argentina is willing to undertake a good offices mission so as to bring the United States and Nicaragua closer to the negotiating table and thus avoid the threat of an armed invasion in Central America. Alfonsin added that Nicaragua believes that the holding of direct negotiations with the United States "is a necessary complement to the efforts being made by the Contadora Group."

Alfonsin implicitly admitted that after the good offices that are presently being carried out, the United States and Nicaragua should resume the Manzanillo talks in order to establish bases of understanding.

PRESIDENTS ISSUES DECLARATION OF SUPPORT

PA022220 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1947 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Mar (EFE) -- Today in Montevideo, six Latin American presidents, the Spanish prime minister, and the representative sent by the Brazilian president-elect signed a declaration supporting the restoration of democracy in Uruguay by Julio Maria Sanguinetti. The presidents also expressed support for the Contadora Group, the New Delhi disarmament declaration, and the Cartagena Consensus proposals. Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi did not sign the document, although he was present at Sanguinetti's inaugural.

The declaration was signed by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin; Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo; Colombian President Belisario Betancur; Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge; Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega; and Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores. Also signing the document were Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, and Granco Montoro, governor of Sao Paulo, representing Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves. The text of the joint declaration states the following:

"On the occasion of Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti's presidential inaugural, we state our deep satisfaction over the return of democracy to the Republic of Uruguay, a country that has traditionally expressed Latin America's highest democratic values. "We also consider this occasion to be especially propitious for stating:

"1. That the significance of restoring democracy in Uruguay is an essential step in the vigorous democratization process in Latin America and constitutes the deepest expression of our peoples' common desire and their eagerness to live in an atmosphere of peace, liberty, and progress. The completion and consolidation of this process requires active international cooperation, and most of all demands the full reaffirmation of the Latin American identity and regional solidarity."

"2. That this democratic advance is seriously threatened by the deepest economic crisis in Latin America since the 1930's, and the transfer of resources to pay the foreign debt increases social tensions and thwarts the possibility of economic recovery.

"3. That a feasible solution of these problems should be sought in the proposal presented by the Latin American countries at the Quito Conference, the basis for the Cartagena Consensus.

"4. That it is necessary to agree on solutions for these serious problems within a multilateral framework of cooperation that cannot be reached with bilateral or unilateral conditions that would hamper national sovereignties or thwart our efforts to achieve a self-sustained and complementary development of our economies.

"5. That beyond the crisis, Latin America can rely on its considerable potential resources, a wealth of talent, and abilities that should be mobilized to overcome our underdevelopment, poverty, and dependence; also, the international community's support of the Latin American efforts will contribute to a more just worldwide order, as well as to our well-being and peace.

"6. That within this context, a crisis of a political and ideological nature such as presently affects Central America can only be resolved effectively and fairly within the spirit of the peaceful actions propitiated by the Contadora Group, to which we give our total support.

"7. That Latin America's destiny is deeply linked to the maintenance of world peace, for which we express our satisfaction over the recent declaration signed in New Delhi by 6 heads of state or government regarding peace and disarmament."

SANGUINETTI BIDS FAREWELL TO HEADS OF STATE

PY040012 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2309 GMT 3 Mar 85

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 3 Mar (EFE) -- Four heads of state who participated in the inaugural ceremony of Julio Maria Sanguinetti today returned to their countries after intense meetings in which they studied the region's economic and integration problems.

The new Uruguayan president said farewell at the Carrasco International Airport to the following heads of state: Oscar Mejia Victores of Guatemala, Luis Alberto Monge of Costa Rica, and Hernan Siles Zuazo of Bolivia.

Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish head of state, also departed today, Sunday. Former Spanish Premier Adolfo Suarez traveled on the same plane to Madrid.

Ortega Postpones Departure

PA031502 Paris AFP in Spanish 1415 GMT 3 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 3 Mar (AFP) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who participated in Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti's inauguration ceremony, postponed his departure, originally scheduled for noon today, Sunday (1500 GMT), sources close to the Nicaraguan president have announced.

The reasons for the postponement of the trip were not given and it was said that Ortega will make a private visit this afternoon to Punta del Este, a Uruguayan beach resort located 140 km east of Montevideo.

This morning the Nicaraguan president received leaders of the leftist Broad Front as well as worker and student delegations.

Ortega Leaves

PA041541 Paris AFP in Spanish 1523 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 4 Mar (AFP) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega left at noon for Managua after attending the inauguration ceremony of Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Ortega was seen off at Carrasco International Airport by Sanguinetti, Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, and many sympathizers.

During his stay in the Uruguayan capital, Ortega met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and several Latin American heads of state, with whom he agreed on broad support for the Contadora Group.

In addition, Ortega explained to Shultz Nicaragua's views on the Central American crisis and received from him the U.S. terms to secure a negotiated peace.

DE LA MADRID TO MEET VENEZUELA'S LUSINCHI

FL012131 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1635 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] The industrialized countries try to pressure countries having raw materials so the latter and their natural resources may be bought at ridiculously low prices.

Venezuela's Minister of Commerce and Development Hector Hurtado made the statement, adding that everything has a limit with respect to problems the developing countries face in placing their products in industrialized countries. He said that during his short visit to Mexico he had discussed with President Miguel de la Madrid the working meeting the president will hold in 2 months with Venezuela's head of state, Jaime Lusinchi, during his official visit to Mexico. He added that both heads of state will discuss international matters and, especially, those regarding the Contadora Group, petrochemical industry, steel industry, and trade, among others.

Hurtado said those matters will be treated with a spirit of Latin American solidarity spirit, at a very difficult moment due to the foreign debts and the world economic crisis that mankind is experiencing.

The Venezuelan official also said his country is trying to place 500,000 tons of steel in the U.S. market, but the United States is recklessly saying Mexico and Venezuela are dumping the product.

DE LA MADRID MEETS WORKERS GROUP HEAD

FL012134 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1915 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid has stated that Mexico cannot remain detached from the restructuring of the international economy and the efforts of other countries to improve their competitive condition. The Mexican president made that statement during a meeting with Javier Bonilla, head of the National Commission for Worker Participation in Business Profits. During the meeting, Bonilla announced an increase from 8 to 10 percent of the working class share in business profits.

President De la Madrid expressed his approval of this decision and said it is a reflection of solidarity between the [words indistinct] sectors. He pointed out that Mexico requires an economy based on sound businesses to provide more jobs and improve living conditions for the Mexican working class. He warned that without a healthy and productive economy and business sector, we cannot recover our growth rate or bring about the national development we want. He pointed out that Mexico is emerging from its problems with solidarity, responsibility, and maturity, as is being demonstrated on this occasion.

BRITISH ENVOY ON DE LA MADRID'S VISIT TO UK

FL012054 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1814 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 1 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Great Britain will sign new bilateral cooperation agreements when President Miguel de la Madrid visits that country in mid-July. UK Ambassador to Mexico Sir Kenneth James made that announcement, but added that neither specific activities nor the exact dates for the visit had been determined yet, although possibilities for new agreements are being studied. Regarding Guatemalan attempts to get an outlet to the Caribbean, the ambassador said that matter concerned only Guatemala and Belize.

ARDITO DISCUSSES DOMESTIC ISSUES, CONTADORA

PM282000 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 24 Feb 85 p 4

[Alberto Diaz Rueda dispatch: "My Government's Priority is To Combine Administrative Efficiency and Political Honesty"]

[Excerpts] Panama City -- A cordial but distant atmosphere was maintained during the interview granted by the Panamanian president to four European journalists (bureaucratically postponed until the last few hours of our stay in the country, perhaps with the covert aim of thwarting an interview arranged with National Defense Commander General Noriega). It is difficult to believe that this polished technocrat, who uses figures and economic verbiage with enviable ease, heads a country governed by such a corrupt and inefficient administration. You believe that there is goodwill in this man who, as soon as we have sat down to talk, talks to us about his "optimism" about the situation and faith in the national process and who boils everything down to resolving the fiscal and economic problem through "actions agreed to by the country's various production sectors."

Ardito did not even blink when we expressed to him our surprise at his avowed -- and publicized -- connivance with the National Guard. "There must be," he said, "coordinated and harmonious relations between the government and the Army. In this task of government there is an element of national security which justifies and necessitates consulting and even involving the Armed Forces in the process."

I reminded the president of recent statements by Gen Noriega: "We cannot allow the crisis to become an attack on the foundations of the Panamanian family's security." Is this a call to order, a warning? Barletta smiled, although behind his spectacles his eyes looked coldly, perhaps irritably, at me. "No. Not at all. That remark reflects only an objective stance of support for the government's actions. The need to resolve this crisis must not be taken as an excuse for breaking with the system."

The president declared himself sure of military support and scorned the mass demonstrations of discontent, "manipulated," he said, "by minority moderate right-wing and left-wing groups." He gave the trite reply with the precise coldness of an axiom. "I am attempting to exercise power," he continued, "constructively for the people," and he carried on with a lengthy diatribe full of empty technocratic political phraseology so commonplace in these parts, at least among the few politicians of the area who enjoy an education like his.

Barletta assured us that he was not the "barracks' candidate" in the last election and that, as a result, his role does not depend on the Tinajitas barracks' pressures, nor is he obliged to follow "any military man's" instructions, although he is obliged to respect the Armed Forces' opinions, "since the military also have something to say for the nation's progress." The president stressed that, in any case, he is the man who is attempting to implement Torrijosism without Torrijos.

The political legacy of the charismatic Omar Torrijos (killed in an accident in 1981) has been "perfected by time," and Ardito asserted that all the positive aspects of his work remain. "I was an active associate of Torrijos, and I pride myself on maintaining his broad and open outlook and his pragmatism, which resulted in a tradition of dialogue among all sectors of the country to seek Panamanian solutions to Panamanian problems."

He then counted on his fingers the most outstanding aspects of Torrijos' policy: commitment to social development, participation by the underprivileged in national progress, a constant struggle for independence and sovereignty, dialogue with the population on the country's problems, and the people's presence in major Panamanian actions. "Of course, the circumstances are different from Torrijos' day, due to a widespread crisis and the country's stagnation."

How will you extricate the country from the stagnation from which you acknowledge that it is suffering? Ardito replied instantly, as if we had hit on a long-awaited question the reply to which was well learned: "Our priority is start the country growing, combining greater efficiency in government and administration with the utmost public honesty. We will correct problems such as corruption, unproductive investments, and mistaken economic plans."

"Will you form a government of national unity to resolve such a widespread crisis, a government which would give you the support of all political sectors?" I asked. The president seemed to hesitate, and there was a moment's silence until he seemed to find the loophole, the noncommittal reply. "I have sought from all political sectors an agreement on national reconciliation in order to avert a polarization that would curb the process of change. That agreement would also include the employers, workers, and trade unions."

Contadora Process Deadlocked

Regarding international policy, this correspondent attempted unsuccessfully to induce Ardito to define his stance on the United States and its activities in the area. What stance would Panama, a Contadora Group member, adopt if Washington intervened directly in Nicaragua? The president blatantly ignored the question, and began to talk about the Contadora Group and its proclaimed and well known political thinking, the problems surrounding the signing of the document, and the local bickering over Nicaragua dividing the countries of the area -- principally, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala. When I repeated the question, Ardito smiled, shifted uneasily in his chair, and finally said: "I am not going to answer that question."

The topic of the group and the recent difficulties created by the Urbino Lara affair between Costa Rica and Nicaragua took up almost all the remainder of the time given to us by the president. In Ardito's opinion, the main adverse factor preventing complete success for Contadora is "the distrust among the various Central American governments." "A formula must be found to surmount the Urbino Lara difficulty -- a temporary and minor problem -- in order to continue the process of peace and dialogue, which is, here and now, the only course for Central America."

GOVERNMENT DECREES PLAN TO CONTROL EXPENDITURES

PA020208 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Feb 85 p 40

[Text] The Plan for Contral and Rationalization of Public Expenditures, which is designed to establish regulations and measures for the recovery of public finances, achieve an effective control of public expenditures, and make optimum use of currently available resources, has been officially adopted through a resolution bearing the signatures of President of the Republic Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta, Vice Presidents Eric Arturo Delvalle and Roderick Esquivel, and members of the Cabinet Council.

The same resolution also establishes the Coordinating Commission for the Plan for Control and Rationalization of Public Expenditures (Comision Coordinadora del Plan y Racionalizacion del Gasto Publico -- Coragap) which is charged with coordinating and following up on the plan. That group will be under the Presidency Ministry and will be headed by the minister himself who will make the corresponding recommendations to the executive.

This organization includes the heads of the Directorates of Planning and Budget of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy, Auditing of the Comptroller General's Accounting Systems Office, Supply and Expenditures of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, as well as by representatives of the Energy Commission, the National Institute of Telecommunications, the National Water and Sanitation Institute, the national director of transportation, and state workshops.

COCINA SAYS LAW 11 WILL INCREASE COST OF LIVING

PAO21813 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 2 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Directors of Cocina (National Coordinating Civic Council) claim that with the passage of Law 11 -- enacted into law on Thursday -- citizens can expect a series of measures that will eventually lead to a rise in the cost of living.

Mauro Zuniga, coordinator of Cocina, once again denounced corruption in the government, squandering of public funds directed and upheld by the military, under the auspices of the United States, using various methods to coverup for the anti-democratic practices of an unpopular government, imposing new taxes which in the end will only affect an already deteriorated economy, and bring hunger to the masses.

Explaining that after coming to the forefront of the movement he [as received] has waged a relentless attack against measures aimed at further taxation, a cleanup in government circles, the recovery of illgotten gains and for a drastic reduction in the military budget.

However, Zuniga said, it is the duty of Cocina to comply with the massive support received from the populace, and reiterate it on to all types of measures which instead of allowing for development on a national scale, is working towards satisfying the dictates of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank, also the continued militarization of the nation.

COSTA RICA10-PERCENT CURRENCY DEVALUATION ANNOUNCED

PA012226 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 23 Feb 85 p 4 A

[Excerpt] Planning Minister Juan Manuel Villasuso announced yesterday a gradual 10-percent currency devaluation for this year, which will place the value at 53 colones per dollar. He made the announcement at the closing session of the second seminar on agricultural and industrial policy held at the Central American Institute of Business Administration at La Garita in Alajuela. At the meeting, attended by representatives of the public and private sectors, there was a consensus concerning a gradual change in the country's productive structure. According to the participants, this will help Costa Rica rediscover its comparative advantages and enhance monetary, currency exchange, fiscal, and price policies.

GUATEMALAHERNANDEZ REACHES DEBT AGREEMENT WITH NICARAGUA

PA021714 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] Nicaragua has offered to pay \$11 million of its debt to Guatemala, which surpasses \$150 million. This was reported by Economy Minister Leonel Hernandez Cardona yesterday.

This offer is the result of a trip Hernandez Cardona made to Managua, where he met with his counterpart Martinez Cuenca to discuss late payments which amount to \$22 million. After a long conversation, Martinez Cuenca said that Nicaragua will pay \$11 million by 25 March, and then look for new forms of payment that will allow it to make a large partial payment on the \$150 million, which has been due for several years.

HONDURASCOUNCIL REPORTEDLY DISCUSSES SALVADORAN ARMY PLAN

PA021620 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Report by Regina Osorio -- recorded]

[Text] The Security Council met for more than 6 hours at Government House today. It is assumed that the authorities discussed a proposal made by the Salvadoran Army to the Honduran Army.

According to General Blandon, the Salvadoran Army's chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, there is a need for a joint army operation to dislodge the guerrillas currently occupying areas under dispute by the two countries. Yesterday General Blandon met with members of the Honduran Army in Ocotepeque to present his proposal.

The Security Council also discussed the upcoming visit of General Vessey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff; military and economic negotiations between Honduras and the United States, various aspects of the Honduran-Salvadoran border negotiations; the Central American problem; and the visit by U.S. Vice President George Bush to Honduras.

NICARAGUACOMMUNIQUE TO COSTA RICA PROTESTS BORDER ATTACK

PA020450 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0402 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Communique sent by the Foreign Affairs Ministry to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, dated 1 March]

[Text] Mr Minister: I address Your Excellency to refer to the serious developments I outline hereafter:

Today, 1 March, at 0745 a group of approximately 15 mercenaries located approximately 200 meters from the Costa Rican customs post attacked, from Costa Rica, the Nicaraguan customs post at Penas Blancas. During the attack, which ended at 0815, the mercenaries fired rifles, machine guns, and grenade launchers.

According to reports by Lieutenant (Luis Timoteo Rochas) of the Sandinist People's Army, contact was established after the attack with Lieutenant Aramberto Ruiz of the Costa Rican rural police, who acknowledged that the attack originated in Costa Rican territory and could not be avoided.

These actions are all the more worrisome because on the 18th of this month [as heard], a similar attack was carried out against the Penas Blancas border post, as outlined in note DAJ-025 of this same date. In this note, we reiterated our request to capture and expel from Costa Rica those groups belonging to armed mercenary organizations which, protected by their status as asylum beneficiaries granted by the Costa Rican Government, promote terrorist actions against another state. These actions seem to show that the Costa Rican Government has not yet adopted the measures it is bound to adopt under international law to end these activities and to prevent its territory from being used to attack Nicaragua, to the detriment of the right of asylum, Costa Rica's proclamation of neutrality, and the peace agreements sponsored by the Contadora Group.

I must also point out that these actions reflect the warmongering and aggressive attitude of the U.S. Administration which, instead of responsibly and maturely accepting the insistent and renewed peace initiatives promoted by my government, is redoubling its attacks, on this occasion through the mercenary bands based in Costa Rican territory.

Upon presenting a most formal and strong protest over these attacks, the Nicaraguan Government once more urges the Costa Rican Government to strengthen control and surveillance over its territory to avert this type of illegal action which openly contradicts the international commitments freely undertaken by the Costa Rican Government on the subject of asylum, and which constitutes flagrant violations of international laws and the rules of peaceful coexistence among states.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my esteem.

[Signed] Nora Astorga, acting foreign affairs minister

AMBASSADOR ON OIL SITUATION, MEXICAN CUTOFF

PA032355 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2054 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 1 Mar (DPA) -- Edmundo Jarquin, Nicaraguan ambassador to Mexico, said here today that the Sandinist government does not see any political overtones in Mexico's cutting off oil supplies to Nicaragua. Jarquin said that Nicaragua owes Mexico \$500 million, 11 percent of Nicaragua's total foreign debt of \$4.5 billion.

He also said that in November 1983 the USSR replaced Venezuela as supplier of 50 percent of Nicaragua's oil needs. Mexico had been furnishing the other 50 percent (7,500 barrels daily). Jarquin made these statements while commenting on the announcement made yesterday by Eliseo Mendoza, deputy secretary of energy, that Mexico is temporarily suspending crude oil shipments to Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Mendoza said that the renewal of oil shipments depends on the renegotiation of the entire amount, not only the part for oil, that these countries owe Mexico, and on paying 80 percent of any future oil bills in advance.

During a press conference here, Jarquin said that supplies are not actually being cut off, but only being negotiated under new conditions. We hope these negotiations will conclude promptly and satisfactorily.

Jarquin stressed that the Nicaraguan Government does not see any political motive behind Mexico's decision. It is strictly a commercial and financial issue.

He said that Nicaragua's inability to meet foreign financial commitments is due mostly to the general military, economic, and political attacks it is facing.

Jarquin said that Nicaragua's oil situation is serious because Ecuador, through a supposedly political decision, abstained from shipping 270,000 barrels that it had agreed to in a triangular operation with the USSR. Jarquin said that Nicaragua's oil needs are about 15,000 barrels daily, although in 1984 this amount dropped to an average of 11,500 daily.

PLI LEADER CRITICIZES FSLN ATTITUDE ON DIALOGUE

PA022355 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Feb 85 p 12

[Text] "The FSLN may show concern to pacify the country abroad, but at home it rejects the call for national dialogue. On the one hand it is begging for talks with the United States, while on the other it rejects a national dialogue at home," Virgilio Godoy Reyes, president of the Independent Liberal Party [PLI] has stated to LA PRENSA.

This double standard is very bad; it reveals an FSLN political strategy that seeks to smooth out rough edges at the international level while arrogantly attempting to impose its ideas at home, come hell or high water, he said.

We have repeatedly maintained that the fundamental problem lies within Nicaragua, not abroad, he stressed. The elements of conflict arise here and then shift into international focus. Therefore, in the absence of real concern to reach a domestic solution, the request for direct negotiations with the United States, recently made by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, is part of that double standard. How can detente be sought abroad while tension increases at home? Godoy Reyes asked.

Approximately 3 months ago the current vice president of the Republic, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, said that Nicaragua's domestic situation would never be the subject of negotiations, LA PRENSA recalled. Godoy Reyes replied: "That is part of the syndrome, something that has been clear in the FSLN's behavior, not only during recent days, but throughout the past few years," the PLI leader said.

I am referring to the fact that the FSLN has used sovereignty as a shield, not to defend the country, but to protect the FSLN from the problems it has abroad, he charged. When we speak of sovereignty we mean the nation's sovereignty, while the FLSN understands it as its own, he complained.

A similar thing happens with the term self-determination, he indicated. The FSLN understands the concept as its right to impose its will on others, while we understand it as the right of Nicaraguans to choose their own lifestyles and future, he said.

I repeat, Godoy Reyes emphasized, that good intentions are welcome, but they must be congruent. Initiatives must not be superficial, but serious, responsible, and open to dialogue, he demanded.

Godoy Reyes believes that the FSLN could begin by shedding its arrogant style of leadership. The leaders are surely aware of their decline in popularity and of the need to come to an understanding with all Nicaraguans, he said.

However, a striking note concerning Ortega's current trip, Godoy Reyes said, is that he is seeking the support of three liberal presidents: Alfonsin of Argentina, Neves of Brazil, and Sanguinetti of Uruguay.

"Although the FSLN despises the liberal tradition and considers it outdated, now that it is seeking support, it has found that liberalism is akin to its needs. It has turned out that the South American liberals in power have become important to a government in crisis," the PLI president concluded.

RIVAS LEIVA PROMOTES CONCURRENT U.S., CDN DIALOGUE

PA020310 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Feb 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] The idea of concurrent talks between the Sandinists and the United States, that is the dialogue initiated in Manzanillo, and those proposed by the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] with the FSLN, is being promoted by Luis Rivas Leiva, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, in an exclusive interview with this newspaper.

Rivas Leiva said that he felt certain that a solution will be difficult to achieve without this, and the Sandinists have conceded as much.

The positive side of a concurrent dialogue, which should meet the requirements proposed by the CDN, is that both sets of talks would advance symbiotically, that is, the Sandinist and Americans could be reaching agreements while all the Nicaraguan sectors were making progress in their dialogue.

Obviously, the dialogue cannot progress if the rebels are not included. This is a fact that both we and the Sandinist Front must accept.

The Sandinists must not continue to play David and Goliath with the United States. This is a Bible story, and we are not exactly writing another Bible in Nicaragua, Rivas said. Therefore, the Americans must be confronted in negotiations and not with David's sling-shot, he said.

I am almost certain that in spite of the harsh and threatening rhetoric of President Reagan and Mr Shultz, a proposal for concurrent talks between the Sandinists and the United States, and between the CDN and the Sandinists would be welcomed by the United States and the world, Rivas said.

Naturally, these talks must have international guarantors and deadlines, and I would say that the situation could be resolved after 30 days of talks, he added.

The deadline would have the virtue of pressuring all participants at the talks and exposing before the world those who want war rather than peace, Rivas said. This will demonstrate who the real Nicaraguans are and who are the instruments of other people's interest, he said.

We have made great efforts to achieve national reconciliation. I question its viability at this stage, but I believe that a negotiated solution is possible, in which, without sacrificing basic positions, we sacrifice sectarianism and even forget, as in the case of the Sandinists, a project that has been demonstrated as impossible in the heart of America and which reality has shown as headed for failure, Rivas Leiva said.

Let us make the effort. It is urgent and necessary. Our suffering people demand it. The homeland needs it, concluded Rivas Leiva.

OPPOSITION LEADERS CRITICIZE ASSEMBLY DRAFT

PA021737 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] The Sandinist Front yesterday defeated parliamentary opposition and sent a draft of the statutes of the Constituent Assembly to committee. Socialist Party representative Luis Sanchez has said that this draft was prepared as if the statutes were to be implemented in the days of Napoleon Bonaparte. The Socialist leader said: "This draft of the statutes or rules of the assembly violates the main principles of the revolution. Articles 17, 18, and 19 go against, violate, and deny the program of the Government of National Reconstruction, the fundamental statute of the Republic, the fundamental statute of the rights and guarantees of Nicaraguans, the law on political parties and its regulations, and the electoral law."

Yesterday the leftist leader delivered the strongest attack yet on this bill. He charged that the bill violates political pluralism and elemental democratic principles. "The bill seeks to crush the rights of minority political groups, and it would defeat the progress made in developing a democratic institutionalization of the revolution," Sanchez said.

Sanchez affirmed that the purpose of the document is to reinstitutionalize a two-party system [as published], a situation that has had deadly, somber, and horrible consequences and brings back ugly memories to this country. According to Sanchez, the draft bill seeks privileges for some and discrimination for others in violation of the country's Constitution.

The document violates the agreements of the political summit that took place in this very room, Sanchez complained. The purpose of the document is to have the Assembly yield its power and transfer it to the executive branch, according to that established in No 13 of Article 20. It is stated there that the Assembly can give legislative powers to the president of the Republic when the Assembly is in recess, Sanchez said.

Articles 23 and 24 of this draft give dictatorial powers to the executive branch because, Sanchez said, they authorize the president to assume legislative powers even if the state is in a state of emergency. "It appears that the illustrious members of the justice committee were inspired by the constitutions drafted for Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte."

He asked: How is it possible that this draft states that 60 percent of the members of the Assembly, that is 35 representatives, can approve a document such as this? "This is unbelievable," he said.

Virgilio Godoy Reyes, PLI president, was clear in stating that the draft does nothing but concentrate power in the hands of the executive branch, that is in the hands of the president of the Republic. This Assembly would serve only to confront the executive branch, he said.

In spite of the fact that the subject was of special importance, there were no violent incidents during the session. At 1611, the conservative sector, headed by Dr Enrique Sotelo Borje, left the room to protest a statement by Dr Rafael Cordova Rivas about his party faction's agreement with the FSLN position.

Dr Sotelo told journalists that his faction was withdrawing because it rejects the position of the Democratic Conservative Party and the FSLN on privileges for "parliamentary groups," as established by Articles 25 and 26.

"They are collaborators," said Sotelo as he left the room, visibly irritated.

Prior to this, there had been a confrontation between the representatives of the PLI and the FSLN, Juan Manuel Gutierrez and Rafael Solis, respectively, over Gutierrez' position. Gutierrez was a member of the justice committee that prepared the draft. At this meeting, Gutierrez favored approving another draft being backed by the Socialists and the Communists.

This draft, which was rejected, of course, had been included on today's agenda. Dr Juan Manuel Gutierrez explained to Solis, who said that it was not too serious an action to sign two drafts. Gutierrez said that he had placed conditions on his agreement to sign the draft and had noted that he felt free to approve any other document that he found suitable.

At the end of the session, the draft was approved and was passed to a special commission that will study it, supposedly to make improvements.

ANTI-SANDINISTS MEET IN SAN JOSE, ISSUE DOCUMENT

Managua on Plans for Front

PA031441 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Mar 85

[Text] Another one of President Reagan's plans against the Nicaraguan Government, through which he is seeking to unify all the counterrevolutionary organizations into a single front to justify his aid and logistical support, seems to be collapsing, at least for now.

A meeting in this connection slated for yesterday in San Jose, Costa Rica, was suspended by order of Public Security Minister Benjamin Piza. The meeting was to be held in a centrally located hotel, but had to be held clandestinely in the home of Arturo Cruz, without the attendance of all the invited guests. Those in attendance included Leonel Poveda, his acolyte Adolfo Calero, Alfonso Robelo, and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, also known as Pedrin.

They, the representatives of the alleged organizations that oppose the Sandinist regime, issued a document stating that they accept Commander Daniel Ortega's presidency but demand a national dialogue, which the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference must coordinate; the proclamation of freedom of expression; amnesty for all those up in arms, or Reagan's paladins, as he himself describes them; and the convocation of new popular consultations. According to the signatories, the government must respond to this proposal by no later than 28 March. [as heard] If the response is positive, a cease-fire would be decreed.

Traitor Pastora did not attend the meeting, claiming that he does not mix with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force guardsmen, while Brooklyn Rivera told them that he does not need to sign that document because his organization, the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity, has already opened talks with the Sandinist government to improve the conditions of the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians in the Atlantic coast area of Nicaragua.

Concerning this plan by Reagan, President Ortega yesterday told newsmen in Montevideo that the U.S. Government has been working to organize this front and sell it to the U.S. Congress as a democratic front, in search of political and financial support for its policy of terror in Central America. Commander Ortega stressed: This support for the mercenary forces seems to us both irrational and immoral, but we have hopes that the United States will change its stand and accept a peaceful solution to the problems, which is what we desire.

Calero on Need for Unity

PA020131 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpts] In San Jose tomorrow, Saturday, all groups opposing the Sandinist regime, either with arms or through civic actions, will sign a document in which they agree to unite their activities against the regime. The signing of the document is the culmination of a process which began several weeks ago with the intention of presenting before international opinion a unified front for the solution of the Nicaraguan conflict.

"Radio Impact" managed to conduct an interview with FDN President Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, who said:

[Begin recording] We are trying to unite our forces because we realize that only when united can we defeat that disgraceful regime. We have also learned through the history of Nicaragua that only when the Nicaraguans are united can they forge ahead.

The Nicaraguans were united on 12 September 1856, when Tomas Martinez and [General Maximo] Jerez united their forces to oppose William Walker. The same was true with Somoza. The Nicaraguans united and defeated the Somozist dictatorship. Now we have the Sandinists and communists; all they need is a little push. When the Nicaraguans unite, and there are many Nicaraguans serving in the Sandinist regime who will join our group, we will defeat the Sandinist regime.

Meanwhile, we are taking formal steps to encourage other groups to join the struggle against the Sandinists.

We already know of divisions within the Sandinist regime. Every day we welcome to our ranks defectors from the Sandinist militia, the Sandinist Army, the Sandinist police, as well as those serving in the obligatory military service. Every day we welcome defectors who are fed up with the Sandinist regime. We are confident that when our organization starts rolling, the bulk of the Sandinist troops will join our forces. I am confident that the Nicaraguans, united, will defeat the Sandinist regime. [end recording]

We also contacted Steadman Fagoth in Miami, Florida, who made statements supporting the movement.

Radio Broadcasts Document

PA022113 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Document issued by the Nicaraguan resistance; date and place not given]

[Text] We, democratic citizens, representatives of all sectors of the Nicaraguan resistance, disclose the following manifesto to the Nicaraguan people, the governments and peoples of Latin America and the world:

The current situation in Nicaragua: During the past few years the FSLN has enmeshed our people in a crisis without precedent in our national history. The effect of this crisis is evident in the economic, political, social, and moral sectors of the nation. This situation stems from the abandonment of the original government project and the fundamental statute, as well as from the influence of the Soviet bloc in our domestic affairs. Both factors, which are the sole responsibility of the FSLN, have resulted in an acute conflict, the protagonists of which are the ruling party on the one side and the Nicaraguan people on the other.

The Nicaraguan people obviously reject the attitude of a regime that in essence goes against the values and aspirations which originated the revolutionary process and which were based on liberty, democracy, and social justice, [word indistinct] so many times by the Somoza regime.

In conclusion, the national crisis (?we are experiencing) does not stem from the confrontation between imperialism and the revolution, as the FSLN claims, but from the contradictions that emerge from the [word indistinct] between the Nicaraguan people's democratic expectations and the decisions of a totalitarian system being imposed by the FSLN in our country.

This conflict that has resulted in a civil war is now threatening to destroy the Nicaraguan nation and, as stated in a document issued recently by the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN], cannot be resolved through negotiations between the governments of other nations and the FSLN, or through sectorial dialogues.

Therefore, from this point of view it is evident that the 4 November elections did not contribute to solving the national crisis because they were a farce. This accusation has been endorsed by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission in its 1983-84 report and even by political groups that participated in the elections; they expressed this in a document entitled "Proposals for Minimum Agreements for Resuming the National Dialogue," issued in January 1985.

A political solution for the national crisis can only be found through a true understanding among Nicaraguans that ends the civil war and leads to the reconciliation of all Nicaraguans.

We want to emphasize that this initiative is not being made as a means of seeking quotas of power but [words indistinct] establish in Nicaragua a de jure system that allows Nicaraguans to coexist peacefully and to solve our problems gradually within a new constitutional order.

Common aspirations: We want the democratization of Nicaragua because we are aware that democracy is the only means to implement a true revolution and rescue the country's dignity and sovereignty. We wish to reconstruct Nicaragua and promote its overall development within a model that gives priority to the poor sectors. We want the establishment of a political regime that guarantees a true division of branches, true pluralism, and a just and efficient mixed economy.

To implement all this, the following is required:

- A. The recognition of the supremacy of the civilian society over the state and through this, the dissolution of the totalitarian trilogy of the state-party army.
- B. [Words indistinct] human rights, such as freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of religion, and freedom of education.
- C. The demilitarization of the society and its (?complete subjection to) [words indistinct] or civilian power.
- D. A foreign policy aimed at preserving national sovereignty, peace, and friendship with neighboring countries, and especially at reactivating the historical aspirations for Central American unity.
- E. An economic regime that guarantees the development of a private sector which includes cooperatives and clearly defines the participation of the state as a [words indistinct] economic agent and promoter of social development.
- F. The institutionalization of a multiparty electoral system that guarantees free elections, the alternation of power, and respect for minorities.
- G. Freedom to organize unions and to become members of them.
- H. A modern productive process for a thorough agrarian reform.
- I. An administrative decentralization and effective autonomy for municipal government.
- J. The [words indistinct] of the Atlantic Coast, fully integrating it in to national life, guaranteeing respect for the culture and traditions of the various ethnic groups of this region and the rest of the country within a system of effective municipal autonomy based on the indivisibility of the Nicaraguan nation.
- K. A general amnesty and a pardon for political and related crimes.
- L. The departure of all internationalists, military advisers, and foreign troops, including all those using the identities of dead Nicaraguan citizens and those who have been unlawfully naturalized.

Last and Final Call: After 3 years of numerous efforts for peace aimed at establishing a constructive dialogue with the FSLN that would end the civil war and result in the reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family, we admit that those efforts have been fruitless, due to both the intransigence of the Sandinist regime and the designs of the Soviet bloc. By (?failing to comply) with past agreements, the FSLN has lost the necessary credibility to reach agreements in good faith. This is shown by the case of the commitments established during the 16th consultative meeting of the OAS Council, the original government program, the fundamental statute, the 18 points agreed to by the forum for discussion of national problems, and the promises to hold free and honest elections, among others. In view of the seriousness of current developments, and because we are conscious of our responsibilities as citizens and of the absence of [word indistinct] to spare our people further suffering, we accept the call issued by the CDN and summon the FSLN, for the last time and in a peremptory and final manner, to participate in a national dialogue to end the nation's crisis. This dialogue must meet the following characteristics:

Request: The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference has the required moral authority to organize and continue the national dialogue, and in this sense we endorse the CDN's request that it convene the national dialogue.

Participants: For this dialogue to be effective and obtain the desired results, it is necessary to organize it and adjust it to Nicaragua's situation. There are two political tendencies in Nicaragua: the totalitarian one, which has accepted the FSLN as its vanguard for now; and the democratic one, which is supported by armed organizations and [word indistinct] groups. Therefore, dialogue must be held by these two political tendencies, and both must name the number of delegates that the Episcopal Conference considers appropriate.

Observers and Guarantors: We suggest to the Episcopal Conference that it ask the Central American governments to participate in the dialogue as guarantors of the agreements that may be reached, considering that in the end our Central American brothers are the ones who have been most directly affected by the crisis in Nicaragua. The presence of these governments does not preclude the presence as observers, and even guarantors, of other governments and democratic organizations on the American continent.

Minimum Requirements: We fully endorse the minimum requirements (?set) by the CDN to begin the national dialogue. They are: suspension of armed activities with a cease-fire; lifting of the state of emergency; absolute freedom of transmission of ideas, freedom of association, and freedom of assembly; general amnesty and pardon for political and related crimes; full restoration of constitutional guarantees and right to habeas corpus, (?including) guarantees on the physical and moral integrity of members of the resistance movement who participate in the dialogue, if it is held in national territory. These measures must be implemented under the supervision of the guarantor governments.

Temporary Continuation of the Executive Branch: If this dialogue is carried out, we undertake to accept that Mr Daniel Ortega continue acting as head of the executive branch until the people make a pronouncement through a plebiscite. During this time, Mr Ortega must govern according to the promises of the Junta of National Reconciliation, embodied in the document of 12 July 1979 addressed to the OAS secretary general, the original government program, the fundamental statute, and the American Convention on Human Rights, or the San Jose Agreement.

Initial Points on the Agenda: Although it is incumbent upon the Episcopal Conference to establish the final agenda in agreement with the parties, for the time being, we urge it to include the following points:

1. Immediate adjustment of the government's legal system and actions to comply with the American Convention on Human Rights, or San Jose Agreement, which was ratified by the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction on 25 September 1979, declaring it a law of the nation and pledging to comply with it as a matter of national honor.
2. Immediate dismantling and dissolution of all repressive party organizations such as the Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS] and other paramilitary bodies.
3. Reduction of military forces, noninvolvement of the Army in politics, end to the arms buildup, and withdrawal of all foreign troops and military advisers as well as internationalists.
4. Immediate dissolution of the National Constituent Assembly.
5. A new, provisional law on elections.
6. A new, provisional law on political parties.
7. Reorganization of the electoral power on the basis of these provisional laws.
8. Call to elections for a national constituent assembly.
9. Call to municipal elections.
10. Call to plebiscite on the advisability of new presidential elections.

Initiation of national dialogue, implementation and (?plan): In order to hold the dialogue proposed by the CDN on the basis of the proposals embodied in this document, and since we are conscious of the Leninist tactic of delaying for time to consolidate the FSLN's totalitarian process, such a dialogue must open on 20 March at the latest. This deadline cannot be extended.

If by 20 April the national dialogue has not begun and has not advanced in an evident and substantial manner, it will be definitively suspended by the Nicaraguan resistance movement, thereby precluding the possibility of achieving a peaceful settlement of the nation's crisis. If the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference deems it advisable to talk with representatives of this group [word indistinct] leading to a most prompt holding of such a dialogue, we make known our immediate readiness to participate in such talks, for which we appoint Arturo Cruz, Alfonso Robelo, and Alfonso Calero as our representatives.

May love for the fatherland prevail over foreign meddling, making the FSLN National Directorate respond positively to this last effort on our part to provide a civilized solution to our fatherland. May God save Nicaragua.

It is signed by the following, among others: Arturo Cruz, Alfonso Robelo, Adolfo Calero, Fernando Chamorro, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Steadman Fagoth, Fernando Aguero, Indalecio Rodriguez, Carlos Coronel, Leonel Poveda, Claudio Picaso, Jose Luis Velasquez, Benjamin Gallo, Jaime Morales, Zacarias Hernandez, Jose Molina, Ulises Fonseca, Feliz [name indistinct] Pastora, (Federico) Arguello, Donald Lacayo, Jairo Sanchez, and Luz Marina [name indistinct].

Calero on Dialogue

PA030431 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] As reported a few minutes ago, all Nicaraguan civilian and military opposition groups have signed a document entitled the "Call by the Nicaraguan Resistance Regarding the National Dialogue." The document is signed by the leaders of the various armed and political groups. "Impact News" talked exclusively with Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, president of the FDN, who said the following, among other things:

[Begin recording] [Calero] For the last time, we are asking the FSLN to comply with its promise made in 1979 to give Nicaragua a pluralistic and democratic government, which is unfulfilled. We are setting a deadline for holding a dialogue.

[Reporter] How long is it?

[Calero] [Word indistinct] days. [Word indistinct] days for a response and then 30 days to hold a national dialogue to resolve all problems plaguing Nicaraguans. However, the necessary conditions must be established to begin this dialogue, such as lifting the state of siege or emergency, freedom of the press and of transmission of ideas, and release of the political prisoners [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The only one who (?opposed) this [word indistinct] has been Commander Eden Pastora Gomez, who at present has not signed or subscribed to the document. "Impact News" talked with Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, former codirector of the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA, who was one of the mediators who tried to get Pastora to sign it. When we asked him what he thought about Pastora's (?stance), he said:

[Begin recording] It is true that I tried very hard to get the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance group headed by Commander Pastora to attend the signing ceremony. The fact that they have not signed the document yet does not mean they will not sign it, because this document is open to signing by all full-fledged democrats. I would like you to raise your question about their reasons for not attending the meeting directly to someone in their group. I simply acted as mediator and would rather not give my opinion in this regard. [end recording] [passage indistinct]

Press Conference Canceled

PA030335 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0159 GMT 3 Mar 85

[Excerpt] San Jose, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The anti-Sandinist groups who arrived in this capital in the last few hours could not publicize their "final" offer for a dialogue to the Nicaraguan Government because a scheduled press conference was prohibited by the Costa Rican Government. The press conference, called for 1500 this afternoon (2100 GMT) at the Torremolinos Hotel of this capital, was suspended by the Costa Rican authorities because it could violate the neutrality policy proclaimed by the government of Luis Alberto Monge, according to rebel sources. Suspension of the press conference took place minutes after Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced in Montevideo, Uruguay, that former exile Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, whose return is demanded by Costa Rica, will be released "soon." However, ACAN-EFE had access to the document of the anti-Sandinists, issued after the 2-day talks held here by the main leaders of the civilian and military opposition to the Managua regime. Although these meetings were attended by representatives of ARDE loyal to Eden Pastora, the document was not signed by them.

[San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 3 March adds: Carlos Coronel, a dissident from Pastora's group, was present. "The recovery and reconciliation movement led by Alfredo Cesar was not present at the meeting either, because its main leader is in Washington. It was asserted, however, that he will join this effort to find a peaceful solution to the conflict among the Nicaraguan people."]

"If by 20 March, the dialogue has neither begun nor advanced evidently and substantially, it will be definitely suspended by the Nicaraguan resistance," they said in the document, which was endorsed by 53 signatures, dated yesterday. The signers included, among others, Arturo Cruz, of CDN, Adolfo Calero, president of the FDN, and Alfonso Robelo, political leader of ARDE. The document was also signed by Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro, military chief of Robelo's ARDE, Fernando Aguero, of the Conservative Party in exile, and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, former director of the daily LA PRENSA of Managua.

JOINT COMMISSION WITH MEXICO MEETING ENDS IN HAVANA

Sepulveda Terms Meeting Positive

PA021936 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda has described his visit to Cuba as very positive and termed the results of the work of the fourth meeting of the Cuba-Mexico intergovernment commission which will end its sessions in Havana today as positive.

In an informal interview with this station during a reception held by the Mexican Embassy in the Cuban capital last night, Sepulveda said that the outlook for cooperation between Cuba and Mexico in all areas, including industrial and technological projects and financial cooperation, is vast. He praised the solid support that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has given to the Contadora Group efforts and stressed that this denies the rumors that the work done by the governments of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia is at a dead-end. The reception was attended by many Cuban personalities, members of the diplomatic corps, foreign correspondents accredited to Havana, and several leaders, including Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

The financial protocol of the fourth meeting of the Cuba-Mexico intergovernment commission will be signed on Friday. This protocol will reinforce the historical ties existing between the two nations praised by Malmierca when he opened this session. We will never forget, Malmierca said, that Mexico was the only country that maintained the proud and courageous stand of not breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba when an international campaign of diplomatic isolation and blockade was launched against our country. For this reason, we are very proud of our friendship with the land of Morelos, Juarez, and Cardenas.

Sepulveda on Meeting With Castro

FL020050 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, who is on an official visit that began on 27 February. That was announced in a communique issued this afternoon in Havana just before the signing of the agreements made at the fourth meeting of the Cuba-Mexico joint intergovernment commission by the foreign ministers of the two countries, who headed the delegations to that important meeting.

On the results of the meeting, Malmierca said:

[Begin recording] They have confirmed our confidence and we are satisfied that this new meeting will be an additional contribution to the expansion, consolidation, and development of the very positive relations between our two countries. [end recording]

The Mexican foreign secretary agreed with his Cuban counterpart's assessment on the continuing development of bilateral cooperation. He then called positive the exchanges of opinions on international policy that he held with Malmierca, with Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, and with Castro.

[Begin recording] We have been able to discuss questions that are of particular interest to Mexico, Cuba, and Latin America. In regional matters, we have been able to express our common concern over the need to install a system of peace in the geographic area closest to us. [end recording]

Three Castro-Sepulveda Meetings

FL020238 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0030 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Havana, 1 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor said here this afternoon that Mexico and Cuba are concerned about the installation of a system of peace in Central America. Sepulveda, on his first visit to Havana as Mexican foreign secretary, also said the talks he held, three in all, with Cuban President Fidel Castro served to refine perceptions of questions of particular interest for Mexico, Cuba, and for Latin America. In regional matters, we have been able to express common concerns about the need to install a system of peace in the geographic area nearest us, he said.

The Mexican foreign secretary spoke beside his Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca, at the Cuban Foreign Ministry's Protocol Hall after the conclusion of the fourth meeting of the Mexico-Cuba joint intergovernment commission.

A Mexican Foreign Secretariat spokesman said the principles of Mexico's foreign policy are being applied. He added that Mexican-Cuban relations are at a very high level.

Sepulveda had three meetings with Castro Ruz. According to announcements, they were friendly encounters, in which the two men exchanged views on Mexican-Cuban relations and reviewed the Central American question and the actions of the Contadora Group, which is supported by the Havana government. Sources in the Mexican delegation said President Castro Ruz was courteous enough to seek out and converse with the Mexican foreign secretary. There was no agenda. Commander Castro has been particularly warm and friendly with Secretary Sepulveda. They spoke about everything, including baseball and fishing, as well as historical events. Sepulveda also told Castro about the Mexican decision to continue the Contadora negotiating effort.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Departs

PA031900 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Mar 85

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and his accompanying delegation to the fourth meeting of the Cuba-Mexico joint intergovernment commission, have ended their visit to Havana. During this stay, Secretary Sepulveda met with Cuban President Fidel Castro, Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and other Cuban Government officials.

Sepulveda and his accompanying delegation were seen off at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana by Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca as well as by other Cuban officials and by Ambassadors Jose Fernandez and Rodolfo Echeverria from Cuba and Mexico, respectively.

BRAVO, ORTEGA STOP IN PERU ON ROUTE TO URUGUAY

FL011458 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpts] After 12 years of military government, the constitutional government of Julio Mario Sanguinetti will take office in Montevideo. A great majority of the Uruguayan people have expressed satisfaction at the presence in Uruguay of a Cuban delegation that was especially invited.

The Cuban delegation, headed by Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly, made a technical stop in Lima on the way to Montevideo and was received by Peruvian Prime Minister Luis Percovich Roca, who is also foreign minister.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT ATTACKED

PA031831 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1548 GMT 3 Mar 85

[Text] Santo Domingo, 3 Mar (EFE) -- Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, vice president of the Socialist International, defended himself against a man who tried to slap him by punching the man twice.

The unidentified man tried to slap Pena Gomez in the parking lot of the municipality of this capital of which the Social Democratic leader is mayor. Pena Gomez, who has a rugged physique, dodged the slap and knocked down his attacker by punching him twice in the face. Pena Gomez' chief bodyguard, a National Police major, overpowered the individual and took him to the National Police headquarters, where he is being questioned.

The man was waiting for Pena Gomez to park his vehicle and when he saw him he shouted insults and approached with the intent of slapping Pena Gomez.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PROTEST GOVERNMENT MEASURES

FL011850 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 23 Feb 85 p 11

[By Arsenio Ramirez]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, students from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) and National Police anti-riot agents had a confrontation, resulting in insults and rock-throwing near the university campus. Several arrests were reported, although the majority of those arrested were released yesterday afternoon.

Due to the clashes, classes were suspended for the rest of the afternoon, according to unofficial reports.

The students were protesting the measures adopted by the government, and called for a break in the negotiations with the IMF and for a larger budget for this state university.

The president of the Dominican Students Federation (FED), Manuel Salazar, said: We emphatically say that benefits or mistakes resulting from today's events at the UASD are not in any way a result of our students' union. We did not plan any protest for today.

However, the student leader said that if the National Office of Land Transportation does not announce a reduction of the fare to 15 cents before next Monday, the FED will carry out all types of protests necessary to accomplish the implementation of the gains attained during the academic center's last semester.

NICARAGUAN OFFICIAL VISITS, DISCUSSES COOPERATION

FL011912 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] A Nicaraguan official is in the Guyanese capital for talks on strengthening cooperation between the two countries. The official said his visit would pave the way for a high-level visit by a technical team from Nicaragua to visit Guyana for talks on the technical level. The team will be coming to Georgetown next month. The two governments have been cooperating on the international level in several areas, and the Nicaraguan official said it was time to take the cooperation a step further in a mutually beneficial way.

This week, political and technical teams from North Korea and East Germany also visited the Guyanese capital.

VOTER REGISTRATION EXTENDED TO 31 MARCH

FL012032 Bridgetown CANA in English 1906 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 1, CANA -- The period of national registration has been extended for one month until March 31, following representations made by the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) to Minister of Home Affairs Jeffrey Thomas, a government official said here. The registration exercise, both local and overseas, was originally scheduled to end yesterday, but after talks between Marxist PPP leader Dr Cheddi Jagan and Thomas, it was agreed that it would be extended for one month.

The PPP and the leftist Working People's Alliance (WPA) had protested to the ministry about the failure of thousands of Guyanese to be registered and urged a review of the closing date. Both opposition parties claimed that registration officers were not making house to house registration and were asking people to call at offices to be registered, but the government rejected the charge, saying that those persons were not at home when the offices called on them.

Forty-eight special registration offices were set up to assist in the exercise which began on December 3 for local residents and on January 2 for those overseas. The exercise is part of the arrangements by the government for compiling a new voters list for elections constitutionally due this year.

BURNHAM ASKED TO RECONSIDER ELECTORAL INSPECTION

FL012042 Bridgetown CANA in English 1955 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 1, CANA -- Fourteen organisations, including the bar association, churches, and trade unions today called on the government of President Forbes Burnham to reconsider its decision to prevent three leading international bodies from undertaking an inquiry into the country's electoral system. The organisations' statement has come in the midst of increasing criticism from the government's opponents over the conduct of a current campaign to register persons 14 years and older from which an electoral roll is later to be compiled.

Last month, in response to a letter he had received from the secretary general of the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Niall MacDermot, the Foreign Minister of Guyana Rashleigh Jackson made it clear that it was wholly inappropriate to accede to the request from international organisations to carry out an examination of the electoral process here.

MacDermot's letter was sent on behalf of the ICJ, Americas Watch, a Washington-based human rights organisation, and the UK parliamentary human rights group, following an invitation it had received from 14 Guyanese organisations, including churches, trade unions, human rights and professional groups to appraise the electoral law and practices in Guyana. The members of the proposed mission of inquiry, on behalf of the three international human rights bodies, were to be: Barbados' former foreign minister and attorney general, Mr Henry Forde, currently a member of Parliament of the ruling Barbados Labour Party; Lord Chitnis, an independent peer of the UK House of Lords; and Mr Orville Scohell, a former president of the bar of the city of New York and currently chairman of Americas Watch.

In their letter to the secretary general of the ICJ, the groups requested the cooperation of international organisations to examine the electoral process in Guyana in view of the local, regional, and international concerns which have been expressed about past elections. They said that such an inquiry should help to determine and evaluate the conditions under which the next general election is likely to take place.

In their statement, the organisations said that the government's decision not to cooperate with the mission of enquiry, as reported in the state-owned CHRONICLE of February 24, is surprising in the light of the stature of the persons comprising the mission. The Guyana Government's attitude is particularly regrettable since cooperation with this mission would have been taken as a token of the sincerity of its recent call for national unity. This call is bereft of legitimacy or hope of success unless rooted in sound electoral practices. Furthermore, said the 14 organisations, cooperation with the mission would contribute at home and abroad to changing the controversial image of Guyanese elections.

In light of these considerations, we feel confident that the government may wish to revise its initial position and contribute to the success of the mission at a later date. We feel that the mission will make a valuable contribution to the search for a democratic solution to the electoral crisis in Guyana. In this regard, the statement added, we are confident that all organisations and individuals interested in the process of national unity and democratic values will continue to cooperate with the mission in whatever form the sponsoring organisations decide to mount it.

The 14 Guyanese organisations include the powerful opposition People's Progressive Party-backed Guyana Agricultural Workers Union, and its involvement in the initiative to have the three international bodies examine the country's electoral law and practices is being viewed here as being particularly significant in view of the recent invitation from the ruling People's National Congress to the PPP for talks, at leadership level, for structured cooperation between these two mass-based parties of the country. The other organisations are: The Guyana Bar Association, Anglican Church, Roman Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Moravian Church, Guyana Presbyterian Church, Guyana Human Rights Association, Presbytery of Guyana, National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees, Clerical and Commercial Workers Union, Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union, Guyana Mine Workers Union, and the University of Guyana Staff Association.

BOUTERSE RAISES POSSIBILITY OF STEPPING DOWN

PM011503 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 26 Feb 85 p 1

[ALGEMEEN NETHERLANDS PERSBUREAU dispatch: "Bouterse Says He Will Probably Lead Suriname For Another '6 Months'"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 26 Feb -- At yesterday's commemoration of the military coup, Army leader Desi Bouterse said that he would perhaps only continue to lead the country for another "6 months or so."

Bouterse gave no further explanation of his remark. As the first step along the road toward a democratic government a 26-member parliament was appointed earlier this year. This parliament was granted a life of 2 years. Bouterse's statement seems to suggest that the military regime is considering fixing a date for elections in Suriname.

Bouterse used the commemoration of the coup to launch new attacks on the Netherlands, which, he said, "is violating the rights of the Surinamese people." Netherlands politicians, Bouterse said, speak a great deal of human rights but violate those of the Surinamese people by not complying with the terms of the development aid agreement. In addition, the Netherlands "continues to insult" the Surinamese leadership. According to Bouterse, Netherlands politicians behave like "wiseacres" and spew "foul lies and slander."

Surinamese television reported Sunday evening that Bouterse has held talks on the "concept of unity with former Prime Minister Henck Arron and Jaggernath Lachmon, leaders of the "old" Surinamese parties, the Suriname National Party and the Progressive Reformed Party, respectively. Lachmon and Arron themselves appeared on television the same evening, the first time they have made public statements since the 1980 coup.

Arron, who was removed from office in the military coup, described the lengthy talks he had with Bouterse Saturday as "positive and meaningful." He said that he supports the unity concept because it is necessary for national construction. Lachmon also said that he was positive about the unity concept and said that he is prepared to strive for it in cooperation with other groups. However, he said that he cannot reach a decision on the unity concept on behalf of the Progressive Reformed Party, because consultations must first be held on the subject.

In a special public meeting yesterday the revolutionary leadership and the trade union groupings in the National Assembly called for the resumption of Netherlands "compensation payments" to Suriname.

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